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PRAVDA EDITORIAL ARTICLE EXAMINES U.S. SDI

PM250958 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[Editorial Article: "Washington-Style Morality"]

[Text] America is a land of publicity. If they wish to sell something, they will try to prove anything they like: that black is white and that a wolf is a sheep. They will even advertise the guillotine as a cure for a headache. It may sound absurd, yet should it serve the Pentagon's book, they will try to prove even that.

This is precisely what is happening now with the "strategic defense initiative" declared by the U.S. President in March 1983. They are advertising this American military invention as nothing less than a highly humanitarian, exceptionally moral initiative which allegedly aims to deliver mankind from the fear of nuclear destruction.

A futile attempt is made to prove that the creation of a large-scale antimissile system with space-based elements planned by the Washington administration will make nuclear weapons unnecessary; hence, it will even become possible to scrap them. The calculation is that an uninformed person may begin to think that this is almost a program for nuclear disarmament.

Yet this demagogic verbiage does not achieve the aims its authors would like it to. People alarmed by the Washington "star wars" designs ask simple questions calling for explicit answers. Under the impact of these questions the cheap glitter of the trumpery, with which they were trying to camouflage the real essence of Washington's outer space "initiative", begins to fade.

The question is asked, for example, if the said "initiative" is put forward in order to make offensive nuclear weapons unnecessary, why it is accompanied with an unprecedented buildup of the American strategic nuclear arsenal.

This buildup includes the production of MX ICBM's, the deployment in Europe of the Pershing II missiles, and the manufacture of B-1 bombers. A go-ahead was given to the development and production of new Stealth bombers, cruise missiles, and Trident II missiles for nuclear-powered submarines. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger does not even deem it necessary to conceal that the implementation of all these programs in the strategic weapons sphere aims to sharply increase their nuclear first-strike capability. The outer space ABM shield is designed to serve as a cover for these weapons.

A reasonable question is asked: If it is proposed to lay emphasis on "defense", why should first strike nuclear weapons be deployed near the borders of the USSR and its allies?

Or such a question is asked: If the United States aims only at ensuring "defense", why then does it refuse to follow the USSR's example and commit itself not to be the first to use nuclear weapons? At the recent UN General Assembly session, more than 100 states declared that the nuclear powers which have not yet done so, should make similar statements. The United States voted against that resolution.

Another question is asked: If the United States favors the renunciation of nuclear weapons, why is it against nuclear disarmament talks? The latest UN General Assembly session adopted by an overwhelming majority vote three resolutions calling for such talks. The United States voted against all the three of them.

Finally comes the question: How do the U.S. statements on the "humane" character of its outer space initiative tally with the U.S. stand at the UN on the issue of outer space?

At the latest General Assembly session 150 states were in favor of taking immediate measures to prevent the arms race in outer space. The United States was the only country not to support that resolution. They in Washington do not give any answers to these and other questions; but they stubbornly evade them.

Then wherein does the morality of the "strategic defense initiative", which Washington boasts, lie? Does it lie in the fact, as Colonel Jack Lousma, commander of the space shuttle, put it with cynical straightforwardness: We can keep the whole world in fear from outer space?

In other words they dream of obtaining the capability of launching with impunity the first nuclear strike from beyond the outer space shield and winning a dominating position in the world in order to dictate their will, and bluntly speaking, to blackmail other peoples. Then wherein does humaneness, which is even described as high, really lie? Is it in the fact that they are trying to jeopardize the lives of hundreds of millions of people, even the whole civilization on earth?

Recently a team of authoritative American scientists gave a short and explicit definition of the publicity wrapping, in which the U.S. Administration is trying to sell its "strategic defense initiative." A book on that issue is rightly entitled "The Fallacy of Star Wars." U.S. plans for the militarization of outer space are aptly described as an act of terrorism against the whole of mankind.

Washington's stubborn reluctance to give up the drive for the specter of military superiority -- now through outer space -- cannot but be a source of serious alarm for the world's peoples, particularly now that an agreement has been reached on the USSR's initiative on Soviet-U.S. talks on a complex of nuclear and outer space weapons, that a real opportunity is opening to resolve the tasks of curbing the arms race on earth and preventing it in outer space. The peoples expect from the United States a responsible and serious attitude to the talks, the wish to conduct a constructive dialogue at them, search for decisions on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

CHERNYSHEV ON U.S. COMMITMENT TO SPACE ARMS

LD222222 Moscow TASS in English 2200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 22 TASS -- By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev.

At a press conference on February 21 President Ronald Reagan declared again that the United States will continue being engaged in "research" toward a large scale anti-ballistic missile system with the elements of space basing. It follows from his words that Washington will be prepared to negotiate and discuss the deployment of the ABM system only if the U.S. research does produce the possibility of such a weapon. This shows again that the U.S. Administration is striving to avoid the implementation of the Geneva agreement at the Soviet-U.S. talks on space and nuclear arms that are to start on March 12.

Following this general and apparently, fundamental provision by the President, high-ranking representatives of the administration laud his "strategic defence initiative". And every one is doing this in his own way, being little concerned as to how 'explanations' given by one tally with the 'explanations' given by another. And they produce such trump cards that cause amazement even of seasoned legislators on the Capitol Hill.

This was strikingly shown by special hearings in the Senate Armed Services Committee. Publicizing "star wars" U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Fred Ikle, in a fit of militaristic euphoria summed them up as the core of the United States long-term policy, as the best hope for a "safe future", as a key to ending the competition in the sphere of offensive systems. According to him, they, allegedly, open the door to a long-term nuclear strategy which is in keeping with the United States moral and political values.

Getting carried away, Fred Ikle forgot that, when trying to reassure the public, representatives of the U.S. Administration and the President himself usually assert that the programme of "star wars" is only a "research" and that it may lead, and may not lead to the deployment of ABM system with elements of space basing. The under secretary of defence said outright that the U.S. Administration is convinced that the ABM system will in the long run be deployed, that it is quite feasible. Moreover, according to Fred Ikle the implementation of the programme will be started early in 90's from the creation of a partial defence system aimed at protecting U.S. missiles and that later, well into the next century, a full-scale system for the protection of cities will be created.

The under secretary of defence, apparently, is reading the statements and listening to pronouncements of the President not attentively enough. So he reveals the real aims of the "strategic defense initiative". And the main "agrument" advanced with the aim of concealing the danger of peace presented by the "initiative" is that a large-scale ABM system will, allegedly, protect the entire territory of the USA. But, according to Fred Ikle, it is missiles that will first of all be protected so that it should be possible to threaten and blackmail from under a missile shield the other side. This is where the "moral and political values" lie according to the under secretary of defence. How cynical the assertion of the Pentagon's representative is to the effect that already the initial stages of the ABM development on the way to its full deployment will consolidate stability.

How can stability be consolidated? For the other side will be compelled to seek the possibilities to compensate for the disruptions of the military-strategic balance, and a new stage of the arms race will be launched with all the consequences to follow.

As to the Geveva talks the under secretary of defence said outright that, contrary to earlier argeement, the USA is not going to decide at these talks the question of the prevention of the militarisation of space. It will be insisting on the discussion of the question of the correlation between offensive and defensive armaments and the ways of transition to the deployment of the ABM systems. Quite natural in this connection was a question of Senator Carl Levin, as to what the United States will be discussing at the talks if the administration is not going to discuss any restrictions on the research in the "strategic initiative" and is not going to publicly give it up.

Indeed, it is clear that the implementation of Washington's designs with regard to space would mean that any reduction, moreover elimination of nuclear weapons is out of the question. And the objective of the talks should be the working out of effective arrangements aimed at the prevention of the arms race in space and its termination on earth, the limitation and reduction of nuclear arms, the consolidation of strategic stability. The Pentagon has no wish to decide the first of these problems, in view of this, will be objectively impossible.

Is it not in vain that the U.S. delegation is now being packing to go to Geneva, if it brings along a clearly obstructionist stand which presupposes not a serious, effective dialogue, but "working out the code" for the stepping up of the arms race, its spread to near earth space? This is a futile, empty and harmful occupation.

PEACE, DISARMAMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETS

LD222153 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Feb 85

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the Scientific Council for Research into Problems of Peace and Disarmament was held in Moscow today. Those taking part in the session underlined the need to strengthen the role of Soviet scientists in the struggle to safeguard and strengthen peace and to limit and curtail armaments. The scientific council adopted a statement in favor of preventing the arms race in space and halting it on earth, as well as an appeal to those taking part in the conference of heads of state and government of six non-nuclear countries in Delhi. These documents express support for their efforts which aim to improve the international situation. In an interview with Soviet television, Academician Fedoseyev, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said:

[Begin Fedoseyev recording] The creative initiative of our party and our government and speeches by Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko on various aspects of the fundamental issues of the struggle for peace and disarmament have evoked a great international response. The movement of peace champions and activities of public organizations and all sorts of movements have been stepping up in all countries. Today's session of our Council for Research into the Problems of Peace and Disarmament was therefore devoted to two issues: that of preventing the militarization of space and halting the arms race on earth, and also our attitude to the document which was adopted in Delhi, the Delhi Declaration, and to the meeting that subsequently took place in Athens, where these documents were discussed. At the same time, at this session our council made a detailed examination of the question of how scientists are participating in marking the 40th anniversary of the great victory in the Patriotic War. In this connection, publication is envisaged of a wide circles of scientific and popular literature, and there are also preparations for various symposiums and scientific meetings both in our country and beyond its borders. [end recording]

Arbatov Speaks

LD230052 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1850 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow, 22 Feb (TASS) -- In the nuclear age no single state can strive for security for itself at the expense of another, said Academician Georgiy Arbatov, appraising U.S. plans to create a so-called "all-embracing system of antimissile defense," The scientist spoke today at a session of the Scientific Council on Research Into Problems of Peace and Disarmament of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The tasks of scientists in the struggle against space militarization were discussed there.

Arbatov noted that the propagandist statements of the U.S. Administration regarding the "effectiveness" of this system are aimed at producing the illusion of security in American people and at weakening the peace supporters' movement.

The scientist noted: "Society can still resolve the question: Which way to go -- in the direction of a further arms race or along the path of freezing nuclear weapons and in the long term repudiating them?"

Arbatov assessed as positive the fact that an ever greater number of countries are joining in the struggle to remove the threat of nuclear war. He said: Testimony to this is the conference in New Delhi of heads of states and governments of six countries, and also the Athens meeting for peace and disarmament.

Participants in the session adopted a statement in which they expressed support for the forthcoming talks between the USSR and the United States in Geneva. The statement notes the pernicious nature of the U.S. Administration's plans to wage "star wars", in regard to the cause of peace.

ISRAELYAN ADDRESSES GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

LD221508 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] In Geneva at a session of the disarmament conference the question of a ban on testing nuclear weapons is being discussed. Speaking at the session today, Comrade Israelyan, head of the USSR delegation, gave a reminder that there are drafts for working out an appropriate treaty proposed by the Soviet Union and Sweden, and also proposals from a number of other states. The solution of this problem, stressed the head of the Soviet delegation, centers on the absence of political will from certain nuclear powers.

SOVIET DELEGATE AT CDE URGES LESS ARMS SPENDING

LD221438 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Stockholm February 22 TASS -- Member of the Soviet Delegation I.S. Rozanov made a speech today at the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, and Disarmament in Europe. He noted great political significance of the Soviet Union's proposal on non-rise and reduction of military expenditures, which is being discussed at the Stockholm forum. The Soviet delegate drew attention of the participants in the conference to the pronouncement of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Konstantin Chernenko, who, replying to the appeal of the Argentine movement "The Call of 100 for the Sake of Life" noted: "We proposed that, provided the appropriate universal accord, part of the means to be released as a result of reduction of military expenditures, be channelled for giving assistance to developing countries. But here, too, there is lack of progress because of the stand of Western Powers."

Attainment by the participants in the Stockholm conference of an accord on non-rise and reduction of military expenditures, said the Soviet representative, would be a major contribution to building up confidence and security in Europe and would promote the curbing of the arms race.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD242242 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 24 Feb 85

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Spartak Ivanovich Beglov, APN political observer; Nikolay Ivanovich Yefimov, first deputy editor in chief of IZVESTIYA; and Vitaliy Sergeyevich Sobolev, All-Union Radio commentator]

Arms Talks

[Text] [Sobolev] Hello, comrades! I would like to open our discussion of the state of affairs in the world by stressing that history is now raising the issue of the future of mankind in a very acute way; and under these conditions the core of our country's foreign policy -- as was pointed out in Comrade Chernenko's preelection speech -- is, of course, the struggle to end the arms race that has been imposed by imperialism, and to remove the threat of world nuclear war. It is precisely for this purpose that our country has put forward the proposal for new talks with the United States in order to prevent an arms race in space and to put an end to the arms race on earth. As the Soviet leader noted, differences in the views of the sides on the issues to be discussed are now great. This is obvious to everyone. There is no shortage of gloomy forecasts condemning the talks to failure in advance, but we do not share them, Comrade Chernenko said.

Abroad, universal attention has been attracted by the outline, contained in the speech, of the Soviet side's intentions in connection with the forthcoming talks. This, in the view of the majority of foreign observers, has confirmed once again the Soviet Union's sincere desire for successful and fruitful talks, and for an accord based upon equality and equal security of the sides.

[Yefimov] The majority of our listeners have obviously familiarized themselves from the newspapers with the Soviet Union's intentions in connection with the forthcoming talks. Nevertheless, they are so important that we must recall them once again today. In the first place, the Soviet Union is not striving to acquire any unilateral advantages over the United States and the NATO countries; it is not striving for military superiority over them. We do not have any need of that since we have no intention of threatening them or imposing our own will upon them. We want to live in peace with them and to maintain normal, good relations.

Second, we want an end to the arms race, not a continuation of it. It is for this very reason that the Soviet Union is also raising the issue of such initial steps as a freeze on nuclear arsenals by both sides; a halt to further deployment of missiles; and so on. Using the talks for opposite purposes, in order to justify and to disguise the further buildup and deployment of means of mass destruction in our consideration is an immoral and vicious thing, the deception of the peoples, and a crime against them.

Third, we want a real reduction in the armaments that have been built up, as a beginning the destruction of a significant part of them instead of the creation of more and more new weapons systems, whether in space or on earth, whether offensive means or allegedly defensive ones. In this our ultimate goal is the complete destruction of nuclear weapons everywhere.

[Beglov] It seems to me that it would also be right to note here the fact that the Soviet Union's foreign policy platform, which has again been set out in such an authoritative manner in the past few days, has running through it from beginning to end the call to all peoples and to other governments to unite efforts against the common mortal enemy, the threat of world nuclear disaster.

Events of the past few weeks show how correct Comrade Chernenko's words are about the way in which we are acting together with all the world's peace-loving forces in the cause of strengthening peace and universal security. Thus Andreas Papandreou, the Greek prime minister, during his recent visit to Moscow, described as particularly important and encouraging the fact that the USSR holds a positive attitude to the declaration by the leaders of the six states on questions of disarmament. Many observers -- in particular the newspaper NEW WAVE, published in India -- stress that of all the great powers it is only the Government of the Soviet Union that has supported with all its heart the Delhi Declaration. A similar positive response by the world has been evoked by Comrade Chernenko's replies to the leaders of the Argentinian organization, The Appeal of 100 in the Name of Life, and also to the appeal by the Treaty Now antiwar organization in northern Europe. It is being stressed everywhere that the Soviet Union is filled with resolve to continue to do all that is necessary to remove the threat of nuclear disaster and ensure universal peace. At the same time, and in the light of the reaction to Comrade Chernenko's preelection speech, international observers note that the Soviet Union is not simply expressing its solidarity with the antiwar movements and the call made by people of common sense, but that it is going further than the simple expression of solidarity. In the many concrete initiatives of the Soviet Union, in the steps we have taken, including those initiatives that you have just been talking about, Nikolay Ivanovich, our country is either putting these issues, these measures, on the agenda of multilateral and bilateral talks -- and this includes the agenda of the Geneva talks -- or these measures have already been adopted by the Soviet Union on a unilateral basis. In particular there are such actions as the formal pledge by the Soviet Union not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and the call for the United States and the other nuclear powers to follow this example.

Of course there would be much more optimism in the world if other nuclear powers, and primarily the United States, as one of the major nuclear powers, were to follow these actions and these initiatives. Here, of course, it is understandable why there is so much alarm and concern by the international public when it looks at the way the United States is acting in this field. They are now talking about the so-called nuclear allergy. It would be interesting to analyze this manifestation in greater detail. American leaders are inclined to call this manifestation, so to speak, a disease, because in their eyes it threatens NATO unity and the other alliances where matters are decided by the United States. But this is a healthy reaction by the world public, a healthy reaction to what the United States is doing in building up the nuclear arms race, in planning in its new budget the production of new nuclear warheads and the means for delivering these warheads, but also in imposing nuclear weapons upon other countries. The events of the past few weeks express particularly vividly this feeling of protest and this healthy reaction and indeed this rebuff to these attempts against the security of other peoples through the imposition, by various means, of the nuclear potential and the imposition of the so-called U.S. nuclear presence in every direction.

[Sobolev] It is very important for the success of the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. talks that the leaders of the United States approach these in a serious and honest way, that they renounce senseless notions of military superiority over the Soviet Union and holding talks from a position of strength. Comrade Chernenko's speech contains a call for abandoning attempts to impose upon the Soviet Union the kind of agreement that would unilaterally bind its hands in the strengthening of its defense, but that would open wide the doors for the implementation of the record military programs mapped out by Washington.

'Star Wars' Plans

This week the attention of commentators has been attracted by the Pentagon announcement that in two years' time experiments are going to be carried out under the star wars program during flights by the shuttle spacecraft, involving the testing of aiming devices and guidance systems.

All this is to be done 2 years earlier than previously planned. If this takes place it will be a violation of the Soviet-U.S. treaty of 1972 limiting antimissile defense systems, as an observer of the American ABC television company remarked. One might also recall the recent reports carried by THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES about the plans by the selfsame U.S. war department concerning maneuverable and possibly armed spy satellites and strategic missiles capable of changing their trajectory in order to mislead the enemy. All this, too, is preparation for the notorious star wars. As we see, the talks have not yet begun; their purpose is the prevention of the militarization of space, and yet the U.S. Defense Department is officially stating that it intends to transfer this very same militarization into the practical sphere in the very near future. I would also like to note that it is no coincidence that these Pentagon plans have been made public. The ruling circles of the United States are developing a very extensive propaganda campaign advertising the so-called strategic defense initiative of President Reagan, and the Pentagon plans that we have mentioned, apart from anything else, have been published for propaganda purposes, in order to nullify the arguments of the critics of the star wars program. What do the critics say? They point out that in addition to its political and strategic flaws, the strategic defense initiative also has purely technical flaws. For example, it elements, deployed in orbit, are extremely vulnerable. They. too, have to be protected against strikes before they are able to start knocking out missiles. So the Pentagon is hurrying to support those who are advertising star wars and is demonstrating to its fellow countrymen that in this respect, too, everything has been provided for. Why am I speaking about the propaganda? I am speaking about the propaganda because in singing the praises of star wars official Washington is taking into consideration a psychology widespread among Americans and is trying to create in them the hope that if they are unable to take cover behind two oceans, as was the case in the past, then they might be able to do so behind a strategic shield: Keep America safe, and don't worry at all about what happens anywhere else.

[Yefimov] A few days ago I had a telephone call from an elderly lady who has been a reader of IZVESTIYA for a long time. She lived through the last war and lost many of those who were close to her during that war. She asked me the following question: Are we doing the right thing, at a time when we are on the threshold of new Soviet-U.S. talks, in drawing attention to the various things that are being said by figures in Washington, even things that are extremely anti-Soviet, even remarks that are extremely malicious? Would it not be better to turn a blind eye to this and thereby try to create a more favorable climate for the forthcoming talks? she asked. Of course, what lies behind this lady's words is the breadth of the Russian soul, the peace-loving nature of our people, the memory of the sacrifices made in the last war and concern about the future. Yes, a very high level of responsibility rests upon us, upon the present generation, that of preventing a new world conflagration, as is stressed in the speech by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. In a difficult international situation the Soviet Union is displaying calm, firmness, and restraint. But it would not be right to keep silent about what is being said, -- and this is the main thing -- about what is being done or what is being undertaken in Washington. A newspaper has an obligation to report this and to call a spade a spade. Here is one example you have already mentioned, Vitaliy Sergeyevich: Last week the American General Abrahamson -- not a rank-and-file general, but the man responsible for the implementation of the star wars program, the favorite creation of the American military and industrial complex -- said in an interview given to the journal AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY that the testing of space weapons will begin 2 years earlier than had been planned. Is it something we can fail to report? Can we fail to comment on such a statement? Among other things IZVESTIYA wrote that three conclusions are suggested in this connection:

First of all, the U.S. is already carrying out practical work on preparing space militarization. Secondly, this work is being done at a stepped-up pace. Third, only 2 years remain before the transition from scientific research and experimental design work to the actual launching of space weapons into orbit around the earth.

What is left, then, one may well ask, of those assurances pouring out from Washington that supposedly the strategic defense initiative as the star wars have been called there -- announced by the U.S. President in March 1983 -- is being undertaken exclusively within the framework of scientific research? Well, all that is left is the fact that such assurances from the very beginning contained a plain attempt, unconcerned about credibility, to stupefy public opinion at home as well as abroad, to outwit the partner in the forthcoming talks, and thus achieve -- without much political cost -- the final objective: the use of space for its own diktat. In other words, they want to impose on us a new spiral in the arms race, one that is even less predictable in its consequences, and even more dangerous for the fate of the world. We cannot fail to speak out about this.

[Beglov] There is a second side to the matter that is probably understandable and clear to our listeners. The Soviet Union cannot be an accomplice in any such diplomatic process that could serve as justification and camouflage for further stepping up of the deployment of mass destruction systems. Washington is well aware of the sharply critical attitude of the Soviet Union, as well as the overwhelming majority of governments and public figures, towards the U.S. Administration's plans to present the world with, so to speak, a fait accompli with regard to implementing the programs for space militarization. This would merely open the floodgates for further continuation of the arms race, as has been abundantly reiterated here. This is not only our position. Taking a look at the worldwide poll of who is for or against the U.S. star wars plan, from what has been said recently, one can see that all sober-minded politicians go along with us, with the Soviet position. Take for instance Palme, the prime minister of Sweden, who stated: The arms race must not extend into space. In my view it is illusory to talk about space weapons being able to defend the earth from nuclear threat; creating such weapons will only lead to a new spiral in the arms race. Therefore, I understand the position of the Soviet Union on this issue. Or take, for instance, the statement from leaders of the FRG Social-Democratic Party [SPD], and Vogel, the leader of the SPD group in the Bundestag, who said: For the West Europeans this is essentially a question of conscience now, a question of the fate of their policy in the future. If they fail to say "no" to the U.S. plans to militarize space, then Western Europe will lose forever its independent voice on issues concerning the fate of peace or war. So many observers compare Moscow's position, the position of the Soviet Union, including the latest authoritative statements made by Comrade Chernenko and his preelection speech at home, on the one hand, with the statements and proclamations, so to speak, made on the other hand by certain Western leaders such as Reagan himself, or, say, Margaret Thatcher, the British head of government. In a speech to the U.S. Congress this week, she permitted herself to become indentified with the most decrepit dogmas of the cold war, to the extent, really, that she gave in to some degree to Washington's current attempt to break the strategic parity and undermine the disarmament process through adventurism in space -- not completely identified, it is true; only half-way, half-heartedly, but nevertheless, for the sake of allied solidarity she stated that she gives her blessing at least to research in this field, although with the proviso that the question of testing and deploying these systems should be made the subject of talks.

[Sobolev] In assessing the special adherence, as they say in Washington, of the U.S. Administration to the star wars program, I think one must also take into account the financial side. It was calculated by Poke, assistant director of the Federation of U.S. Scientists in Space Research [name of organization as heard] initial research phase for the implementation of the notorious strategic defense initiative will require 50 percent more money than was spent on all U.S. military research in the field of missile technology between 1954 and 1983. The initiative is to bring in a total of about $1 trillion for the U.S. military-industrial complex, according to current estimates. In time such estimates usually turn out to be strongly on the conservative side. Can you imagine the prospects for U.S. generals and their contractors?

In his annual address to the country, President Reagan promised the Americans a new revolution of hope. Insofar as during the new financial year the Pentagon is to deprive civilian departments of approximately a further $30 billion, it is understadable who can cherish any particularly joyful hopes. According to a U.S. Congress committee report, 164 out of the 169 corporations that form the country's military industry are making an annual profit in the range of 50 to 200 percent of their capital. Three corporations made a profit of over 500 percent, and one of them over 2,000 percent. Such wonders are accepted in the U.S. without surprise. Taking into account that the military companies sell the Pentagon hammers at $400 a piece and coffee machines at $7,000 each, one may guess that their profits could be even more significant. Besides, these profits are not taxed. The Internal Revenue Service announced that the largest of the Pentagon's contractors, despite their phenomenal income, are finding loopholes in the tax laws. Here is a fact to make you ponder, incidentally, by whom, how, and in whose interests those laws are drafted: Boeing, a military giant, has not contributed a cent to the country's coffer since 1980; Lockheed Aircraft, since 1979; Grumman Corporation, since 1976; and General Dynamics, since 1975. This last company thus saved over $500 million. So you can imagine what revolution of hopes these companies expect from the President's new strategic initiative.

[Yefimov] It must be said that in this they reckon they will be able to secure for themselves some technological leap forward, and overtake the Soviet Union, just as they reckoned in 1945 when they started atomic diplomacy, and they have repeatedly resorted to the same thing in the years since. It would appear that past experience has taught them nothing.

[Beglov] If they think in the U.S. that the Soviet Union will sit back and wait for the U.S. to complete its research and to straddle space, so to speak, in the military sense, well, they are undoubtedly making a very serious mistake indeed. Our country will not remain inactive in the face of these dangerous plans and will do everything that is necessary in order not to permit the achieving of superiority over it. This is contained in the warnings we have made more than once. It is time for Washington to listen to this, too.

[Yefimov] As it happens, I was talking recently with the ambassador of a leading Western country -- the conversation was of a confidential nature, so I shall not name him. He said -- commenting on U.S. policy in the sphere of star wars -- that the Americans clearly underestimate the potential of the Soviet Union, as well as its economic, material, and intellectual resources. In this connection I cannot refrain from quoting Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's speech: Any such attempts -- and he had in mind the attempts to overtake the Soviet Union -- are quite without a future, but they are capable of undermining the possibility of an agreement, an agreement that is expected by the peoples of our countries and all peoples wishing for lasting peace and a calm, happy, life.

[Beglov] This space scenario of world politics, so to speak, contains a point related to the prospects, the future of mankind. Is mankind, including the great powers, going to learn lessons from the experience of the past, including the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism, the unity of action among peace-loving states that resulted in this victory? This is the real issue, at a time when many statements by Western leaders place the emphasis rather on the points of confrontation, on contrasting the two systems, on the impossibility of their coexistence in this world, and hence the lack of restraint for adventurist ideas like the star wars idea. Comrade Chernenko's speech at the preelection meeting drew attention by accentuating the need to remember these lessons and the experience of productive cooperation, including the cooperation of the 1970's; and the need to mobilize the resources of foresight, courage, and goodwill in order to ensure common action for the sake of guaranteeing a lasting prospect of peace for the whole of mankind. This is the real issue.

[Yefimov] The preelection speeches by the Soviet leaders show the main principles of our position exactly, and they are notable for their profound confidence in the rightness of our struggle for peace, and in its fairness and its moral quality. Understandably, not everything depends on us alone. But as regards our foreign policy course, it is stable; it is not determined by any last-minute considerations, but by the peace-loving nature of our society itself, where no one is materially interested either in preparations for war or in waging it. Disarmament is the ideal of socialism, Lenin once said, and these words expressing one of the most important peculiarities of our system have acquired even more topicality over the years.

U.S. Policy in C. America

[Sobolev] Talking about the events of the last week, I would also like to note that these last few days, the tone of the U.S. leaders has become even more militant in their speeches on the problems of Central America. Nicaragua has become the target of yet more harsh attacks on the part of the President of the United States and the secretary of state. Now Shultz has even said that the United States' moral duty is to impede the preservation of the current system in Nicaragua.

[Yefimov] At his last press conference, the U.S. President said that his aim is to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua.

[Sobolev] Yes, and in Latin America the observers have assessed these words first and foremost as a self-disclosure: The U.S. leadership has shed its mask. I will remind you that up until lately the White House justified the intervention by U.S. mercenary forces in Nicaragua by the fact that in this way the United States is trying to prevent the export of the revolution from Nicaragua to El Salvador, but, by the way, these two countries do not have any common borders, and the sea, the land, and air around Nicaragua are saturated with U.S. ships, aircraft, and ground troops. Nevertheless, the CIA has still been unable to present any proof over all the years that the aggression has lasted, although it has put in so much effort that if it were gathered together it would fill a spy novel. But now, in order for the process of reaching a peaceful settlement in Central America to be successful, Nicaragua has shown a maximum of goodwill and has agreed to international monitoring on its territory. This was announced by Ramirez, the country's vice-president, in an interview to the French newspaper LE MONDE. As a result, nothing remains of the U.S. pretext for an undeclared war against Nicaragua. This is precisely when the above-cited moral duty appears. Moreover, official U.S. propaganda has tried to shape it in a very splendid manner. For example, the Nicaraguan contras have been compared to the fighters for the independence of the United States against British colonial domination; they have taken in vain the name of the national hero of Latin America, Simon Bolivar. At the time when Bolivar fought against the colonial armies of Spain, U.S. imperialism was still in its infancy, it couldn't stand up on its little feet; but it was already showing its grasping little hands, and the liberator, as the Latin Americans call Bolivar, addressed very bitter words to the United States, the fateful source of the calamities in Latin America. But to those who so blasphemously distort the concepts of morality and duty it does not take any time at all to step across historic truth. All the same, I think that the ghosts of George Washington and Simon Bolivar have been stirred by U.S. statesmen by force of circumstances, and that the growing bellicosity of their statements is to be explained by the clear defeats of imperialist policy in various corners of the world: in Central America, in Chile, where the U.S. services are trying to reconcile Pinochet with the right-wing opposition [as heard] in order to maintain the current regime; in Southeast Asia, where the surviving followers of Pol Pot have mostly been thrown out of the territory of Cambodia; in the Near East, where the Israeli forces have begun a forced withdrawal from Lebanon; and in the Middle East; in Afghanistan, where the U.S. mercenaries are having a bad time of it, despite the generous handouts from the United States, China, and some other states.

U.S. Involvement in Afghanistan

[Yefimov] Last week a report appeared in the press stating that total aid to the Afghan counterrevolution, and these are first and foremost U.S. funds, will this year reach $500 million -- a huge sum. Behind this sum lies military technology, explosives, terrorist training, and, of course, murders, the deaths of civilians, and so on. All this arrives through Pakistan, which has truly become a U.S. base It is from this base that all the subversive and direct military actions are committed against Afghanistan.

Moreover, the Pakistani authorities not only offer their territory to the foes of the neighboring country, not only do they train dushmans and equip them, as reported recently by the Pakistani magazine URDU DIGEST, published by an ultraright-wing religious organization, Pakistani servicemen themselves are carrying out forays into Afghan territory. The Pakistani authorities have banned the journal from reporting anything similar in the future. However, it has already been known for a long time that there are quite a few Pakistani instructors and advisors in the dushman gangs. Officers of Pakistani military counterintelligence have admitted that many operations on Afghan territory are carried out not by dushmans, but by special-purpose Pakistani units.

Moreover, a closed conference to coordinate subversive activity against Afghanistan was recently held in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The Pakistani foreign affairs minister took part in it, as well as Pakistani generals, the governors of provinces neighboring Afghanistan, while the chairman was none other than President Ziaul Haq himself. Such are the facts. Against such a background, the assurances of the Pakistani Government about noninterference in the affairs of Afghanistan are not worth much.

One cannot fail to add to this that Ziaul Haq's military regime is extremely unpopular in his own country. On the eve of the general elections in Pakistan, which should take place next week, the military authorities have thrown behind bars practically all the opposition leaders and several hundred of the activists who have been appealing for a boycott of these mock elections.

Socialist States' Economy

[Sobolev] To conclude the program, comrades, I would like to turn to the socioeconomic situation in the fraternal socialist countries. The results of the development of their national economics for last year have been published, deeply analyzed, and commented upon.

In the GDR it has been noted that last year was the most successful in the whole history of the Republic; the growth of production exceeded the plan and reached 4.2 percent overall. Labor productivity, in terms of net output, increased by 7.7 percent; efficiency has grown, and prime costs have dropped. All this has led to an improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the people.

One must also note the high results in the economic and scientific-technical cooperation with other socialist countries. Such a picture can be seen everywhere in the socialist community. The significance of the fraternal countries' successes is also very great for the implementation for our common, very important foreign policy task: ensuring the preservation of peace on earth. Together, as is said in Comrade Chernenko's preelection speech, we have not allowed the United States and its allies to upset the military-strategic parity in their favor. The Soviet leader stressed: It is a great boon for the cause of peace and international security that there is a community of socialist states in the world, one that consistently upholds the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence in the international arena. On this, comrades, we end the program. Thank you for your attention, and all the best.

FURTHER ON IAEA ATOMIC MONITORING AGREEMENT

Signing Ceremony

LD232022 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Feb 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; correspondent's report over video]

[Text] A ceremony was held in Vienna for the signing of an agreement between the USSR and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] placing under the IAEA's control parts of the peaceful nuclear activity of the Soviet Union. Our correspondent in Austria, V. Mikheyev, reports:

For the USSR, the agreement was signed by Comrade Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Utilization of Atomic Energy; and for the IAEA by Hans Blix, general director. The draft agreement was approved the previous day by the IAEA Board of Governors.

No state has put forward more radical and far-reaching proposals on the issue of control than the Soviet Union with regard to nuclear installations being used for peaceful purposes.

After the signing ceremony, a news conference was held at which the Soviet delegation, answering correspondents' questions, explained that the Soviet Union considers the system of guarantees of the IAEA as a major part of the regime for nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Blix Welcomes Agreement

LD222126 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Vienna February 22 TASS -- Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has expressed high appreciation of the agreement signed here by the USSR and the IAEA on putting under the IAEA control of part of the peaceful nuclear activities of the Soviet Union. In my opinion, it is a historic event, he said. H. Blix expressed confidence that the implementation of the guarantees at Soviet nuclear installations will make a favourable impact on the activities of the IAEA and on its control system.

IZVESTIYA on Lomeyko Remarks

PM221213 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] A briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center on 21 February in connection with the conclusion of an agreement on the placing of a section of the Soviet Union's peaceful nuclear activity -- several AESes and research reactors -- under the control of the IAEA.

Addressing the briefing, V.B. Lomeyko, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Department, announced that on 21 February the IAEA Board of Governors approved the draft of this agreement. It was noted that, as a nuclear power, the Soviet Union has no international obligations regarding the placing of its peaceful nuclear activity under IAEA control.

But, being guided by a desire to strengthen confidence among countries and peoples, the USSR unilaterally proposed that such an agreement be concluded. This step is yet another example of the Soviet Union's goodwill and commitment to the cause of strengthening the international system governing the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

In the replies to journalists' questions it was pointed out in particular that the IAEA will exercise control over those facilities that the USSR exports. As a result of the application of safeguards to Soviet nuclear facilities, the IAEA will have every opportunity to perfect the procedure and methods of control that may subsequently be used with even greater effectiveness when the agency exercises control in non-nuclear states.

It was emphasized that the Soviet Union's good-will gesture will help to increase the authority of the nonproliferation treaty, enhancing the role of the IAEA, and consolidating that international organization's system of control over any nuclear activity of non-nuclear states. The Soviet Union's actions stem from its desire to do everything necessary to strengthen the international system governing the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which is a main avenue in the struggle to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

Petrosyants' Further Remarks

AU221004 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 22 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Vienna -- A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy, and Hans Blix, director general of the IAEA, signed a security control agreement for civilian nuclear facilities selected by the USSR at the Vienna International Center yesterday, Thursday [21 February].

At a press conference Petrosyants stressed that the USSR regarded this step as a fundamental matter, and that security controls were of great international significance; their experiences could be useful not only for the inspection of civilian nuclear plants but also for programs of nuclear disarmament. With the exception of one country, all countries possessing nuclear arms have now voluntarily submitted to control under the provisions of the non-proliferation treaty. (When he was asked whether he had meant China, the Soviet representatives attending the press conference laughed; Petrosyants said it was superfluous to answer this question).

REAGAN NEWS CONFERENCE CAUSES 'BEWILDERMENT'

LD221547 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Washington plans to speed up the development and the implementation of plans for space militarization, fraught with a new deadly threat to mankind.

U.S. President Reagan, speaking at a news conference in the White House, made it clearly understood that in Washington they are thinking by no means about only research, but also about concrete plans for the deployment and use of space weapons. Reagan said: I have often stated that if as a result of our research it becomes clear that there exists a possibility for the creation of such weaponry, then in such an event I will be ready to discuss its deployment and use.

Reagan made it understood equally frankly that the United States does not intend to discuss these questions in a constructive spirit during the Soviet-U.S. talks, which begin on 12 March in Geneva. Such a position by the President, proclaimed only 3 and 1/2 weeks before the start of talks, cannot but arouse bewilderment.

SHULTZ SPEECH ON U.S. INTERVENTION CRITICIZED

LD231118 Moscow TASS in English 1048 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Washington February 23 TASS -- George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, delivered a speech in San Francisco cynically proclaiming that it is the "moral duty" of the United States to take part in attempts at overthrowing the legitimate governments of independent countries objectionable to Washington.

It follows from the speech of the U.S. secretary of state that the point at issue is above all U.S. support for anti-government gangs and groupings in such countries as Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola and Kampuchea. Shultz said that there should be no doubt as regards with whom the United States sympathises. He was not ashamed to interpret the brigand policy of state terrorism and subversive activities against other states and peoples as "commitment" of the United States to freedom and democracy.

The U.S. secretary of state frankly admitted that support for counterrevolutionary forces in the countries, whose policy does not suit the book of the United States, accords with Washington's selfish interests. The USA has no choice in many parts of the world but to resort to actions proceding from strategic considerations, he pointed out. The best example of such actions by the Washington administration is, in the opinion of Shultz, the U.S. invasion of the tiny and unarmed Grenada.

The head of the U.S. diplomatic department was speaking with open hatred about revolutionary Nicaragua. He high-handedly demanded a change in the character of its home and foreign policy and said that it is "immaterial" to the United States whether a change in Nicaraguan behaviour is achieved -- through an "evolution" of the current government, or through the "collapse" of the Sandinist regime.

Shultz warned that if the U.S. Congress did not appropriate for the administration additional funds to finance the gangs of the Nicaraguan "contras," the White House would prepare for other, even more dangerous forms of interference in that country's affairs. "For if we do not take the appropriate steps now to pressure the Sandinistas," he said, "then we may find later, when we can no longer avoid acting, that the stakes will be higher and the costs greater." He threatened that a "direction action" by the United States against Nicaragua would become necessary.

THATCHER SPEECH TO U.S. CONGRESS REPORTED

PM221452 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent L. Koryavin dispatch: "Britain-United States: M. Thatcher's Talks in Washington"]

[Text] Washington -- From the very outset, reports on British Prime Minister M. Thatcher's visit to Washington occupied a prominent place in television news broadcasts and in the U.S. press.

Interest was heightened by the fact that Thatcher's visit coincided with the 200th anniversary of the establishment of U.S.-British diplomatic relations and by press "warnings" about "certain differences" in the approach to certain international problems and to economic policy issues.

However, the dramatic warnings about those "differences" evaporated when the British prime minister addressed a joint session of the two houses of the U.S. Congress. Political circles in Washington drew particular attention to that fact, emphasizing that Thatcher is the first head of the British Government since Churchill to address the members of the supreme U.S. legislative body. In her speech to Congress, Thatcher in fact made no effort to steer clear of the views and philosophy of the cold war patriarch.

Thatcher's speech was permeated by the idea of the "policy of strength." She extolled the concept of military superiority, justified the arms race, and crudely attacked the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy. Thatcher stated from the rostrum that she is "firmly committed" to President Reagan's decision to conduct research as part of the "strategic defense initiative;" in other words, she in fact supports the well-known U.S. strategic concept of "star wars," which leads to space militarization. On the eve of the visit the British prime minister's entourage was emphasizing that Britain's position on questions of creating ABM weapons involving space-based elements amounts to support for their "development" but not "deployment." But, when all is said and done, it is just one step from the creation of "star wars" weapons to their deployment in space.

Thatcher did not simply support the U.S. "space weapons" idea but also proposed that British scientists take part in the "research" work on creating them. In addition to the discussion of U.S. plans to militarize space there was also talk about the need to deploy other arms systems, the continued modernization of Britain's nuclear potential, and the further deployment of cruise missiles on British territory.

If contradictions did emerge as a result of the British prime minister's visit to Washington they are primarily concerned with the national interests of Britain itself, whose people are aware how dangerous it is for their country to be harnessed to the U.S. "space chariot."

CANADIANS PROTEST COUNTRY'S USE IN NATO TESTING

LD230608 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Sergey Pravdin commentary from the "International Diary" program]

[Text] The heightened attention to the words of the Soviet leader leaves one in no doubt as to the evaluation being made in the world of the points of the speech. The Soviet Union's peace-loving course is in harmony with the aspirations of millions of people: Never before in the whole of the postwar period has the peace movement been so active, never before has the geography of its participants' actions been so broad.

Today these actions are taking place in Canada; its population is expressing its active protest against U.S. cruise missile tests on its terrtiroy. I call on my colleague, commentator Sergey Pravdin, to talk about this in more detail:

The tests carried out on 22 February are the second ones this week, and the fourth ones these past months. According to reports in the Canadian press, the current exercises are taking place in conditions extremely similar to those in a battle. To calm the Canadian public it was announced that the missiles in so-called free flight over Canada did not have any nuclear warheads. But, after all, these so-called battle conditions can only be imitated by having in mind a presupposed adversary. There is probably no special need to explain that in the Pentagon the enemy is implied to be the Soviet Union. Strictly speaking, the area of the exercises itself is indicative of this. After all, Alberta Province, where I have had occasion to visit more than once in my work as a correspondent in Canada, is very reminiscent in its geographic and climatic conditions of the central part of our country. As the TORONTO STAR newspaper wrote, U.S. cruise missile tests in Canada can be assessed, without stretching the truth in any way, as provocative in relation to the Soviet Union.

Incidentally, according to information agencies' reports, among the slogans inscribed on the banners of the participants in the demonstration by the Canadian peace champions there was the following: The Soviet Union is our neighbor across the North Pole and we want to live in peace and friendship with it, as with all other countries. In Ottawa, on the so-called Parliament Hill, the demonstration by the participants of the anti-missile movement lasted several hours. Wide sections of the Canadian public are not only against cruise missile tests, but are against any military cooperation with the United States that is fraught with dangerous consequences for Canada.

Presently Ottawa is tied to Washington not only by NATO traces [postromki], but also by bilateral treaties of the NORAD type. In February 1983 the United States foisted on Canada the so-called special agreement on military cooperation, on the basis of which the Pentagon is currently carrying out its cruise missile tests. Incidentally, it is not only the Pentagon that is using the maple leaf country as a firing range to test various types of armaments. The West German Bundeswehr is testing its latest tanks in Canada, in conditions close to those of the Russian winter. British pilots are going through their so-called northern acclimatization in the same place, as well as the servicemen of some other NATO countries.

In regard to U.S.-Canadian military cooperation, it is acquiring the most varied forms. According to Canadian press reports, U.S. nuclear submarines are frequent guests at the Canadian Navy base in Halifax. Some components for the U.S. Trident submarines and the Pentagon's military satellites are being produced in Canada.
Under pressure from Washington Ottawa increases its military expenditure every year. It is against all this that sensible Canadians are protesting. As indicated by public opinion polls carried out in Canada, almost two-thirds of Canadians currently advocate against NATO countries testing cruise missiles and other armaments on Canadian soil; 76 percent support the idea of freezing nuclear arsenals. Tens of municipalities declared their towns nuclear-free zones. Signatures for peace petitions are being gathered throughout the country. It is noteworthy that the antiwar and antinuclear movement has become significantly active these days in many other countries also, including in the United States itself, Britain, the FRG, Belgium, and Japan.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS PRC ENVOY'S ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW

PM241751 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ambassador's Arrival"]

[Text] Li Zewang, PRC ambassador to the USSR, arrived in Moscow 24 February.

PRC DENIAL OF AFGHAN REBEL LINKS VIEWED

LD240015 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0956 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] New York, 23 February, (TASS) -- The PRC's permanent representative at the UN has sent a letter to the UN secretary general that attempts to refute allegations that the PRC is participating in subversive activity against Afghanistan. Facts confirming that participation were presented by the DRA's permanent representative in a letter dated 7 February this year.

Let us recall with regard to this that a news conference was held in Afghan capital a few days ago at which journalists were shown various types of Chinese-made weapons which the PRC supplies in large quantities to the Afghan counterrevolution, and documents bearing witness to China's expanding interference in the internal affairs of the DRA.

Dawud Karyani, BAKHTAR agency vice president stated that the PRC had become one of the main organizational centers of the undeclared war against the DRA. It supplies the bandits with light weapons, explosives, antitank and anti-infantry mines, automatic weapons, large-caliber machine guns, recoilless guns, and antiaircraft weapons.

As well as supplying weapons, China plays an active part in the bandits' military training. Chinese instructors are working with U.S. and Egyptian instructors in the counterrevolutionaries' camps in Pakistan. This training is also being carried out at the same time in China, itself, in Xinjiang Province.

The journalists were shown letters that were seized from representatives of the Ettehadia Mujahidin Eslami Afghanistan and Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan bandit groupings, which in documentary fashion confirm the PRC's links with the Afghan counterrevolution. The letters contain information about weapons deliveries to the bands received by Chinese instructors on Afghan soil.

HU YAOBANG NOTES CULTURAL REVOLUTION 'UPHEAVALS'

LD211742 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Beijing February 21 TASS -- LIAOWANG magazine has published a speech made by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Hu Yaobang to students of the CPC Central Committee's party school. He said, in particular: "Exactly twenty years out of 36 that have passed since the establishment of New China were, one can say, lost because the affairs were conducted in a wrong way."
Hu Yaobang said that these twenty years were lost due to such upheavals as the "Cultural Revolution". They resulted in the present-day economic backwardness, chaos in the political, socio-economic and cultural life of the country.

The general secretary of the CPC Central Committee also pointed out that upheavals of this kind should be avoided in all ways in the future.

COMMENTARY ON U.S.-S. KOREAN MILITARY MANEUVERS

PM220959 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Ganshin "International Commentary": "Two Courses -- Two Aims"]

[Text] Pyongyang -- "Green Berets" stationed on Okinawa and transferred to the location of the "Team Spirit-85" military maneuvers in South Korea. American "commando" subunits specially equipped with portable nuclear charges. Increased activity by ships and attached air formations of the U.S. 7th Fleet. These are just some of the sinister signs of the American-South Korean games taking place to the south of the Korean peninsula.

To recall history, the first exercises in the "Team Spirit" series, which were held in 1976, might appear as simply child's play against the background of the present ones. In the course of just a few days at that time, approximately 46,000 servicemen learned to fire at targets, maintain a defense, and knock out the enemy from commanding heights. Today, different times and a different scale exists. For more than 2 months more than 200,000 Americans and South Koreans will operate under conditions as close as possible to combat conditions, including rehearsing methods of conducting combat operations under conditions of nuclear war.

The DPRK press, which is devoting a lot of space these days to materials connected with the American-South Korean maneuvers that have begun, invariably emphasizes their extremely dangerous nature not only for the northern part of the peninsula. There is no doubting the fairness of this assessment of events. The provocations by the American military and their puppets in direct proximity to the DPRK's borders are fraught with the emergence of an armed conflict, which could escalate into more serious international complications. So far the self-restraint and the high fighting spirit of the DPRK people and their Army are preventing the dangerous escalation of events on the Korean peninsula. But the provocations by the South are becoming increasingly brazen. The DPRK officers with whom I spoke in Panmunjom frankly admitted that it is becoming increasingly hard to determine what form the next provocation might take on. "We are obsolutely ready to rebuff the aggressor," they said. "But it is hard to say how the Yankees will behave if their ambitions are affected. And there is a huge quantity of nuclear weapons stockpiled in South Korea, you know."

The turning of South Korea into a major arsenal of American means of mass destruction is a direct threat to the national interests of the region's peoples. Having openly declared that it has no intention of curtailing its military presence in this region, the Reagan administration is stepping up war preparations. Gambling on creating a "preponderance of forces" in its own favor, the Pentagon is increasing the number of aggressive troops and stationing new types of arms there, including nuclear and neutron arms.

This policy is countered by the consistent peace-loving course of the DPRK, which advocates normalizing the situation on the Korean peninsula and resolving problems by peaceful means around the negotiating table. The DPRK's desire to create a nuclear-free zone, a peace zone in this region is acquiring special topicality. As Pyongyang's MINJUN CHOSON wrote recently, "the creation of such zones in various parts of the world and their steady expansion is an important way to ease international tension, rescue mankind from the danger of nuclear catastrophe, and preserve and strengthen peace." This, the Korean press emphasizes, is why "the Workers Party of Korea and the DPRK Government are making every effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and a peace zone and express full support for and firm solidarity with the peoples struggling to create such zones in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

As we see, there is no shortage of manifestations of goodwill on the DPRK's part. The direction in which the situation on the peninsula will develop largely depends on the American administration's sense of its responsibility for what is happening in this region.

'MILITARIST HUE' SEEN IN NEW S. KOREAN CABINET

PM221434 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 85 First Edition p 5

[Sergey Tikhomirov "Commentator's Column": "Policy Stays the Same"]

[Text] Chon Tu-hwan, head of the Seoul puppet regime, has announced the formation of a new cabinet. Of the 22 ministerial portfolios, 13 have changed hands. In the words of an official spokesman for the Blue House -- the residence of the South Korean president -- the reshuffle in the government was carried out in accordance with the "national desire for stability and reforms." However, the president is clearly playing the hypocrite.

It will be recalled that during the so-called general elections that were held in South Korea last week, the population again demonstrated its desire for the restoration of democracy. The regime's hopes that the elections would enable it to strengthen its positions and simultaneously give it at least a semblance of legitimacy were, alas, unjustified. Further, the farce played out on Washington's orders by no means produced the results expected by the Seoul elite.

Destpite repression by the authorities, the New Democratic Party, which united within its ranks resolute enemies of the antipeople clique, achieved striking successes. Winning almost one-fourth of the seats in the country's National Assembly (parliament), it showed itself the largest opposition force.

In the resulting situation the puppet regime, clearly worried by the election results, was again forced to maneuver. Hence the latest government reshuffle -- the fourth since Chon Tu-hwan came to power. But this is a change of faces, not policies. According to Japanese press assessments, the new cabinet has a "militarist hue." As before. Its total attachment to Washington's imperial course has been maintained. It is no accident that the defense minister has retained his post and the premier's portfolio has been awarded to Chon Tu-hwan's "comrade-in-arms" No Sin-yong, who was until recently head of the South Korean CIA.

The results of the reshuffle show the puppets' desire to prevent demonstrations against the regime. The United States is providing considerable help in this. After all, Chon and his clique are Washington's "own people" and Washington realizes that the more stable the Seoul regime is, the more reliably "America's vital interests" here will be ensured. Counseling the new cabinet, Chon Tu-hwan instructed it to "take tough measures against any actions damaging political stability." And that means that the promised "reforms" in South Korea in the very near future can only be followed by new strokes of the whip.

JAPAN NONDISCLOSURE OF KAL RADAR DATA SCORED

PM251038 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent report: "Ostentatious Refusal"]

[Text] Tokyo, 22 February -- The Japanese Government has again categorically refused to supply parliament with the data from radar tracking stations that could shed light on the circumstances of the espionage mission of the South Korean airliner that invaded Soviet airspace in September 1983.

Answering a question from Socialist deputy (S. Oide), an official spokesman for the country's National Defense Agency stated that the government does not intend to publish these materials for "reasons of national security." However, the real reason for the refusal, parliamentary circles believe, is that the tracking stations' data attest irrefutably to Tokyo's direct participation in the Boeing 747 provocation.

An independent investigation conducted by the socialist deputies has shown that the Japanese air force command was well informed from the outset that the South Korean airliner had intruded deep into the USSR's airspace. The radar stations in the north of Hokkaido Island carefully tracked the spy plane's maneuvers, informing the U.S. command and the leadership of the Japanese intelligence services of the development of events.

TIKHONOV LETTER TO JAPAN-USSR AMITY OFFICIAL CITED

OW230855 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Report by Tokyo correspondent Vykhukhalev]

[Text] Soviet Premier Tikhonov's reply to a letter from Munenori Akagi, president of the Japan-USSR Friendship Association and adviser to the Parliamentarians' League for Promotion of International Disarmament, was handed over to Mr Akagi at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo on 22 February. In this regard, Radio Moscow Tokyo correspondent Vykhukhalev has filed the following report:

In this reply, Premier Tikhonov thanked Mr Akagi for highly appraising the Soviet policies of eliminating the danger of nuclear war and strengthening world peace and international security, and stated as follows:

From now on, the Soviet Union will continue to do its best toward the solution of the major issues that the world is facing today, including the prevention of the arms race in outer space, the suspension of the arms race on earth, and the improvement of the international situation. It should be pointed out, in particular, that the Soviet Union has consistently called for the total abolition of nuclear arms since their first appearance. As the Soviet leadership has frequently confirmed, we are always ready to cooperate with all those who are striving for the prevention of nuclear war, for everlasting peace, and for promotion of cooperation and relations of trust among nations and the peoples of various countries. We believe that the Soviet Union and Japan, neighbors in the Far East, can take common steps to achieve these objectives that conform to the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries.

You must be familiar with our practical proposals in this concern, including our proposals to Japan. We are also ready to discuss other truly constructive proposals that may promote concrete development of the easing of the tensions in this region or in a broader area. With the application of these proposals to a greater degree, they will make greater contributions to the cause of peace in Asia and in the whole world.

Furthermore, Premier Tikhonov stressed that the activities of the Japan-USSR Friendship Association with Mr Akagi as its president enjoy profound respect in the Soviet Union. He added that the Soviet people highly appraise the efforts made by the Japan-USSR Friendship Association to contribute to the easing of international tensions through its activities aimed at promoting Soviet-Japanese delegations, promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries, and consolidating peace.

Premier Tikhonov continued as follows: As is clear from your letter, several hundreds of local self-governing bodies in Japan have already made nuclear-free declarations. This is a new and clear proof that the Japanese people do not want any repetition of the tragedies in Nagasaki and Hiroshima; they oppose new wars that may lead to mankind's catastrophe; and they have become more enthusiastic in their struggle against the danger of nuclear wars. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, has pointed out that it is a symbol of the present age that an increasing number of the general public have come to participate in the cause of supporting peace.

In conclusion, Premier Tikhonov stressed that the efforts made by peace champions in Japan, just as the efforts made by other forces of peace in the world, will always have the understanding and support of millions of the Soviet people.

In the Radio Moscow correspondent's interview held after the ceremony for receiving Premier Tikhonov's letter, Mr Akagi said as follows:

We fully understand that the Soviet Union truly wants to have the reduction of nuclear arms. We firmly believe that the Soviet Union will never change this stance as stated in Tikhonov's letter. We will make this reply from Premier Tikhonov known not only to the members of the Japan-USSR Friendship Association but also to the Dietmen who are members of the Parliamentarians' League for the Promotion of International Disarmament, and members of the Committee of the Twenty-Two.

We give our full support to the Soviet proposals. The point at issue now is to make the United States adopt the same constructive stance, and we are now making our efforts towards this objective. I deeply appreciate the reply sent me by Premier Tikhonov. Needless to say, the Soviet Union and the United States will play major roles in nuclear arms reduction. However, in cooperation with all peace champions in Japan, we will do our own part in promoting the rapid progress of this campaign.

These were the remarks made by Mr Munenori Akagi when he received Premier Tikhonov's reply.

AFGHAN REBEL BID FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE CRITICIZED

LD231347 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes: It is reported from Washington that another "delegation" of Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits has arrived there with the task of slandering the policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as well as securing additional appropriations for stepping up acts of sabotage against that sovereign country. Although the size of U.S. "aid" to Afghan counter-revolutionary gangs is kept secret, THE WASHINGTON POST said that it would amount to not less than 600 million dollars in the next fiscal year alone.

That report is another proof that U.S. imperialist quarters, which have unleashed a veritable undeclared war against the sovereign Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, are continuing and escalating their efforts to try and reverse the march of events in that country whose people, after accomplishing a revolution, have firmly embarked on the road of building a new life.

Those in the United States, who have institutionalized banditry and terror as state policy and would like to dictate their will to independent countries and nations, do not shrink from any criminal actions in pursuing that aim. It is the United States and its special services that have set up more than 100 camps and bases in Pakistan, which borders on the DRA, to form, train and equip armed gangs which are then sent to Afghanistan. It is emissaries of the CIA, a tool for exporting counter-revolution, that inspire and direct those who, after penetrating into the DRA, kill innocent people, ravage peaceful villages, desecrate mosques, blow up bridges and roads, set hospitals on fire, and destroy communications lines. The overall damage done to the national economy of Afghanistan by the actions of Afghan counter-revolutionaries nurtured beyond its borders has amounted to less than 34 billion afghanis.

The imperialist circles of the United States and their accomplices, who are continuing the undeclared war against the DRA, are trying to execute a policy of genocide in respect of the Afghan people. This is an aggressive, criminal policy which is strongly condemned by the international public.

And in order to conceal and camouflage their criminal actions, the organizers of the intervention against the DRA are trying, though in vain, to smear revolutionary Afghanistan and its freinds and to defame and distort their policy, while posing themselves almost as advocates for "a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem". All these verbal efforts of theirs are lies from beginning to end. Anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet strategic military designs -- this is what guides Washington's actions. And it is Washington that is preventing a genuine settlement of the situation in Afghanistan and around it.

What is needed for such a settlement? First of all, an end must be put to all subversive actions against Democratic Afghanistan and to armed and all other outside interference in its internal affairs and reliable international guarantees be provided that such interference will not recur. But this is precisely what Washington would not like to happen.

Subversive operations against Democratic Afghanistan, no matter from whose territory and with whose money they are carried out, are a hopeless adventure. They are doomed to failure. The rebels and their patrons do not have the slightest chance of success.

U.S. BLAMED FOR DISEASED INDIAN GRAIN CROP

PM221001 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the rubric "Behind the Scenes of Subversion": "Poisoned Grain"]

[Text] Delhi, 20 Feb -- Scientists of the Indian Agricultural Research Council are voicing serious concern in connection with instances of the infection of grain crops with dangerous diseases which have caused grave harm to the harvest in nine states, including Punjab -- India's chief granary.

According to investigation data, the seeds of wheat and other crops obtained from a number of U.S.-controlled international research centers are the source of grass diseases. The seeds were infected with dangerous diseases. The party responsible for the destruction of harvests has also become known. It is a not unheard of international institute for research into agricultural crops operating in the state of Andhra Pradesh, some of whose staffers were recently exposed as agents of U.S. special services. The "selection experts" working there, who come from the United States, Canada, the FRG, and a number of other Western countries, have foisted on India seeds which are carriers of diseases, the use of which has done considerable harm to agriculture.

In this regard the local press recalls that similar large-scale sabotage has already been carried out by U.S. agents against revolutionary Cuba, when in 1968-1969 tobacco plantations on the Island of Freedom were infected with dangerous diseases which destroyed the tobacco harvest. This time, the newspaper DAILY emphasizes, such subversion was undertaken against India.

SRI LANKA VOA STATION 'FRONT' FOR SECRET POST

PM210959 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov dispatch: "Spying on the Air Waves"]

[Text] Delhi -- According to the journal FORUM, published in Colombo, the powerful VOA radio station that is being built in Sri Lanka will provide a good front for a secret U.S. communications center and a U.S. Navy electronic eavesdropping post in the Indian Ocean.

The journal notes that this radio station will be the most powerful station of its kind outside the United States. A number of its transmitters will be located underground and equipped with an ELF aerial system, enabling them to eavesdrop on the airwaves of the entire region of South Asia and the Indian Ocean. The information obtained will be transmitted directly to the Pentagon via satellite.

CANCELLATION OF EXERCISES LINKED TO NEW ZEALAND

LD231335 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Yevgeniy Kachanov commentary]

[Text] According to reports from Washington, large-scale naval military maneuvers code-named "Roll Call," in which five countries -- the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand -- were to have participated, have been cancelled; they were supposed to have taken place in the Pacific and Indian Oceans over a 3-month period. At the microphone is our commentator Yevgeniy Kachanov:

It would seem that this kind of event -- I have in mind the cancellation of the maneuvers -- could occasion nothing other than satisfaction in those countries off whose shores they were supposed to take place. Let us observe: It was planned for member-countries of three aggressive blocs simultaneously to participate in this major demonstration of naval strength. These are ANZUS, uniting the United States, Australia, and New Zealand; the two latter countries together with Britain from the ANZUS bloc; that leaves Canada, which also has an exit into the Pacific Ocean, but together with Britain and the United States it is a member of the West's chief military and political bulwark, the NATO bloc, which has long been trying to broaden the sphere of its activity from the North Atlantic to other seas and oceans. And finally the name of the "Roll Call" maneuvers which, translated from English, signifies "general muster" [obshchiy sbor]. And suddenly to this muster Washington has sounded the retreat.

The natural question here arises: What was the cause of this? The answer came from Canberra. Australian officials declared that this step is a routine measure of response in connection with the New Zealand Government's decision to prohibit the entry into its ports of U.S. ships with nuclear weapons on board; not just U.S. ships in particular but in fact any others. But this decision provoked dissatisfaction primarily in Washington. Indeed, despite the numerous declarations by New Zealand Prime Minister Lange of his loyalty to the obligations to the alliance, objectively his policy is leading to the collapse of the ANZUS bloc.

And so the U.S. Administration has begun to act. The United States ostentatiously refused to receive the New Zealand Parliamentary Defense Committee and New Zealand's defense minister; a whole series of military maneuvers in which the New Zealand Armed Forces were due to take part has been canceled; a meeting of the ANZUS bloc on miltiary communications matters did not take place. According to information in the Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI, Washington's sanctions also include a refusal to supply New Zealand with any information on a military nature. The meaning of these actions, to create the appearance of the isolation of Lange's Labor government, to scare the New Zealanders with this country's imaginary defenselessness in the face of the mythical Soviet threat.

Besides, Washington is afraid that to some extent or another U.S. allies may follow the example of New Zealand. A basis for such fears is to be found in particular in Australia's refusal to take part in U.S. MX strategic missile tests in the Tasman Sea and also the activization of the antinuclear movement in Japan and other countries of the Pacific Basin. These events deal a serious blow to Washington's plans to turn this expansive region into a strong point of its global nuclear strategy.

CPSU DELEGATION VISITS GDR 11-13 FEBRUARY

PM211231 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 85 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A delegation of CPSU party workers headed by P.Ya. Slezko, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Section, was in the GDR 11 through 13 February in accordance with the plan for CPSU-SED interparty ties. The delegation acquainted itself with the SED's experience of political enlightenment work among working people. The delegation was received by J. Herrmann, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee.

GDR ATTACHE HOLDS MEETING ON ARMY ANNIVERSARY

PM201608 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 85 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Press Conference at GDR Embassy"]

[Text] Major General (G.) Oldenburg, military attache at the GDR Embassy in the Soviet Union, held a press conference 19 February to mark the 29th anniversary on 1 March of the GDR National People's Army. In his speech Maj Gen (G.) Oldenburg noted that the GDR National People's Army servicemen firmly stand shoulder to shoulder with the servicemen of the other Warsaw Pact armies in guarding peace and socialism. Together with their brothers in arms, the armed defenders of the German socialist state are preparing to worthily greet the 40th anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism and the 30th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact.

GDR TROOPS HOLD FESTIVE MEETING IN ERFURT

LD230851 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The traditional week of comradeship-in-arms between servicemen of the Soviet Army and the National People's Army of the GDR started with a festive meeting in Erfurt. The week is being held this year under the sign of preparation for the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over Hitler's Germany and liberation of the German people from fascism. Speaking to those assembled, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, Minister of National Defense of the GDR, Army General Hoffmann, conveyed to Soviet servicemen warm congratulations on the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Soviet officers and soldiers met working people of Erfurt enterprises. Wreaths were laid at the graves of Soviet servicemen who fell fighting fascism and German antifascist fighters.

Military Attache Speaks

LD232229 Prague Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1830 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Major General Yuriy Chelpanov, military and air attache of the Soviet Embassy in Czechoslovakia, will now speak on the occasion of the anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy's founding:

[Begin Chelpanov recording in Russian with superimposed Czech translation]
Esteemed comrades, on 23 February our people and their soldiers together with our foreign friends celebrate the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy's founding.

The Soviet Armed Forces founded by great Lenin and educated by the Communist Party, have now guarded the legacy of the Great October for two-thirds of a century. Their standards bear the fame of great victories in battles for the liberty, independence, and flourishing of the Soviet homeland. The Soviet Union's Armed Forces always have been and will remain the faithful, reliable guard of the results of the revolution and upholders of peace and social progress.

We recall the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy in a period of further growth of creation initiative and political and work activity of the Soviet people who are striving for the realization of the historic resolutions of the 26th party congress. The Soviet people and their soldiers, guided by the directives of Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU Central Committee secretary and Supreme Soviet chairman carry on a successful struggle for the fulfillment of the 11th 5-Year Plan, a dignified celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War, and thus they bear a greeting to the 27th congress of our Leninist party. With their responsible work they strengthen in an all-round manner our socialist homeland's economic and defense power, and its authority and standing in the international arena.

In the present situation, when international tension and the danger from even the military viewpoint are growing because of the aggressive forces headed by the American Administration, the Soviet Armed Forces, together with Czechoslovak People's Army and other fraternal armies united for almost 30 years now in the Warsaw Pact defense alliance are reliably and effectively solving the basic task of life; namely, to preclude a war from breaking out in Europe, to use all means to strengthen peace to contribute to the reduction of international tension and to the furthering of peaceful cooperation among states.

The great Soviet Armed Forces, who reliably protect the results of Great October, have gone on a great heroic path during these 67 years. The Soviet people, as well as our friends and allies, can be certain that our Army will vigilantly stand on guard for peace and socialism also in the future. [end recording]

TASS, CTK SIGN COOPERATION PROTOCOL IN MOSCOW

LD201847 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1500 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] The Soviet Union -- Sergey Losev, director general of the Soviet press agency TASS, and Otakar Svercina, director general of the Czechoslovak press office, noted at their talks today in Moscow the very successful development of relations between both press agencies. In a protocol on cooperation between the agencies, which was signed today, further cooperation between both media is specified in joint use of communications, news exchange with agencies in developing countries, in developing cooperation between the picture offices in news presentation, in the exchange of experience at the (?level) of journalists' activity, in introducing new agency technology, and in providing sports information.

POLISH SPOKESMAN ASSAILS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

LD221734 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Warsaw February 22 TASS -- Poland regards the "report" on the situation in the human rights field abroad published by the U.S. Department of State as a fresh attempt at interfering in the internal affairs of the Polish People's Republic and an instrument of the policy of confrontation with socialist and other states, a Polish Government spokesman said at a news conference here.

He stressed that instead of ensuring the observance of human rights at home, where non-white population is discriminated against, where many ethnic minorities are in a tragic position, the U.S.A. usurps the right to assess the observance of human rights in other countries. This is at variance with the principles of the Charter and other documents passed by the United Nations as well as with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In the past and at present, too, the spokesman went on to say, the United States has demonstrated disrespect for the principles of international law and a scornful attitude to them. Violation of sovereign rights of peoples has become a sort of a code of conduct of the U.S.A. The mentioned "report" is an example of gross interference in the internal affairs of their countries and attempt at slandering their policy. Intervention in the affairs of other states has, thus, become a principle of U.S. foreign policy.

Judging from the section of the "report" devoted to Poland, the spokesman said, the United States has not abandoned attempts at destabilising the domestic situation in Poland and undermining confidence in the Polish Government and its policy, or cultivating anti-Polish campaigns in certain international organizations. This "report" contains a no small amount of information slandering Poland, and often -- outright fabrications concerning its domestic policy. It is at a basic variance with the "intention" to improve relations with Poland of which Washington speaks so often.

GROMYKO BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY

Relations Viewed

PM220939 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 85 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by IZVESTIYA own correspondent N. Paklin: "USSR-Italy: Mutual Understanding via Dialogue"]

[Text] Rome -- The forthcoming visit to Italy by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR foreign minister, is seen in Rome as an event of paramount importance. "This visit," the Italian parliamentarians' monthly magazine CONGRESSO writes, "is above all a favorable opportunity to strengthen and expand bilateral relations between Italy and the Soviet Union."

A.A. Gromyko's previous visit to Italy, in January 1979, was an outstanding milestone in the development of multifaceted ties between the Soviet Union and Italy. My Italian interlocutors agreed that the visit had helped increase mutual understanding between our countries, despite the fact that they belong to different political, economic, and military alliances, and offered favorable prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation. There was confirmation of Soviet and Italian dedication to the cause of detente and cooperation in the European Continent. Soon after the visit a major contract was concluded in Rome on supplies of large-diameter pipes to the Soviet Union for use in the north. The protocol signed during the visit on cooperation between the USSR State Hermitage and the world famous Uffizi Gallery in Florence has been put into practice.

On looking back over past years, it should be stated that Soviet-Italian relations have by no means always displayed ascending development, but this is certainly not for want of goodwill on the part of the Soviet Union. Our country has invariably sought friendly relations with Italy -- a major West European state, a country with a developed economy and rich culture. The aggressive course of NATO militarist circles, especially Washington, has repeatedly cast a shadow on Soviet-Italian relations. It has to be said that Italy, which was one of the initiators of the adoption at the Brussels NATO Council session in December 1979 of the decision to "modernize" the bloc's nuclear potential, which led to the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles in West European countries, has been a frequent and very vigorous participant in the implementation of this course.

Life has shown that people were deceiving themselves when they saw the "two-track decision" as a chance to avoid a new round of the arms race. The first batch of ready-to-launch U.S. nuclear Tomahawks has now been deployed on Italian soil. It is no secret whom they are aimed at: From time to time Italian papers and magazines print maps on which is drawn a semicircle enclosing western and southern areas of the European part of the Soviet Union. This represents the range of the nuclear missiles. The missiles radiate from the U.S. Tomahawk base near the Sicilian city of Comiso. As far as we are concerned, these missiles are strategic weapons. Further deployment of them would cause a sharp deterioration in the situation in our continent. That is why the Soviet Union wants the European Continent to be free from all nuclear weapons -- medium-range and tactical. The Italian public supports the Soviet peace initiatives.

It should be noted that in the conditions of the extremely adverse development of the international situation as a whole, the Soviet Union and Italy have managed to preserve the positive elements in their bilateral relations that have been accumulated in the past. The protocol on consultations, signed by the Soviet Union and Italy in 1972, has operated reliably.

This important document laid the basis for the political dialogue that has continued all these years.

The year 1984 was fruitful in this respect. K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with Italian President S. Pertini and Italian Foreign Minister G. Andreotti in February in Moscow. In April K. U. Cherhenko again received G. Andreotti when he visited the Soviet Union. A.A. Gromyko met and talked with his Italian colleague several times in 1984. The ministers exchanged opinions on topical questions of the international situation and, naturally, examined our bilateral relations.

The sides al'ocate an important role to political consultations between the two Foreign Ministries. They allow for better appreciation of one another's viewpoint and sometimes enable one to ascertain that positions on various aspects of problems under discussion are the same or similar. Work on expanding the treaty and legal basis of Soviet-Italian relations is also of considerable importance. An example of this is the bilateral agreement on international truck traffic, signed in 1984.

The practice of Soviet-Italian interstate relations is very extensive. Last year alone four Italian ministers visited the USSR, as did delegations from various ministries and departments. Interparliamentary exchanges have perked up somewhat. However, as I learned in conversations with Italian parliamentarians, their interest in contacts with deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the union republics' supreme legislative bodies is far from catered to by the current volume of reciprocal visits and meetings. There are many unexplored opportunities in this sphere.

There is a tradition of trade and mutual exchange of cultural values between the Soviet Union and Italy. Our countries are not competing on the foreign market, since the Soviet and Italian economies are complementary. The leaders of such industrial giants as Fiat, Montedison, SNIA-VISCOSA, and others have noted with pride on more than one occasion that their firms' long-term economic agreements with our country, including those on a barter basis, have been an example to other Western countries. But Italian political circles' wariness of Washington in this sphere as well has sometimes put trade in a difficult situation. At one time Italian firms yielded to pressure from ruling circles, reduced their activity in the Soviet market, and failed to -- or were unable to -- offer mutual advantageous terms for the purchase of their goods by Soviet foreign trade associations. The result was a considerable discrepancy between purchases of goods from the Soviet Union required by the Italian economy and the sale of Italian goods on the Soviet market. The correction of the imbalance depends not least on the Italian firms that are competing on equal terms with other firms from Western countries in the Soviet market. Trade, as is known, is a reciprocal process and it should be conducted on the basis of mutual advantage.

By and large the level of Soviet-Italian contacts in the cultural sphere is pretty high. Italians have the chance to acquaint themselves with our country's rich, multinational art. They are often visited by large artistic collectives and outstanding soloists and Soviet museums exhibit their treasures in various Italian cities.

The diverse Soviet-Italian ties are intended to serve the cause of rapprochement between our countries and peoples in line with their national interests. However, they are not the only important part of the complex range of international relations. The world situation remains tense. By developing their bilateral relations, the Soviet Union and Italy are helping to improve the international climate. Italian Government circles and the public welcomed the accord in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States on holding talks on nuclear and space armaments. This was stated in particular by Italian Prime Minister B. Craxi.

There is a growing awareness in Italy that space militarization would be a serious danger to peace. It is no accident that the Italian mass media are writing day in day out about "star wars," about the nightmare mankind would not be able to survive. At the same time, the United States is increasing the pressure on Italy and the other West European countries not only to secure political support for the programs of so-called large-scale missile defense, but to use their material resources in its creation.

In reply to these demands, the Italian papers are citing a multitude of weighty and convincing arguments against the creation of a U.S. "space shield." People in Italy are coming to believe that the opening of a new arms race avenue would contradict the U.S. pledge to hold talks for the purpose of reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.

...I have been talking with a number of Italian politicians. Despite the fact that they belong to different political parties, they unanimously advocated the further positive development of Soviet-Italian relations and expressed confidence that A.A. Gromyko's upcoming visit to Rome and his talks and meetings with the top Italian leaders will serve this goal.

Anticipation in Italy

LD250749 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Feb 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by special correspondent Igor Kudrin from Rome]

[Text] In the Italian capital, after an unusually cold winter, it is sunny again: The ancient streets and squares have again become busy with people. The mood of the inhabitants is different, too. In Italy, just as everywhere in Europe and the whole world, they look forward to the start of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue in Geneva and believe that it will be possible to achieve positive results there. Giulio Andreotti, the country's minister of foreign affairs, declared a few days ago that the aim of these negotiations should be to prevent the militarization of outer space.

At present, the forthcoming official visit to Italy by Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and USSR minister of foreign affairs, is at the center of attention among the local public. Comrade Gromyko is coming here on the invitation of the Italian Government.

It must be said that there is enormous interest, in Rome and in the whole country, in the meetings, talks and negotiations, which the Soviet minister will hold with the leaders of the Italian Republic. Local political observers emphasize that the significance of this visit extends beyond the confines of bilateral relations. It is considered here, with all justification, that the Soviet Union and Italy can make an important contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and international security together. They are writing and talking a lot these days in Rome about the traditional Soviet-Italian relations, about the feelings of sincere sympathy and mutual respect between our peoples.

Just yesterday, a book of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's selected speeches and articles was published here. The book evoked an enormous political resonance in the country. In his introduction to the book, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko writes -- and the local mass media pay special attention to this -- that a sound basis exists for the development and perfection of relations between the two countries, and this is particularly essential now, in the nuclear age, when the question arises of the cooperation of states for the sake of maintaining peace on earth and saving our terrestrial civilization. In a work, the general mood here is that the Soviet Union and Italy are setting a good example of good-neighborly relations and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Gromyko Departs Moscow

LD251058 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and USSR foreign minister, left Moscow today for Rome for an official visit at the invitation of the Italian Government. He will also pay an official visit to Spain at the invitation of the Spanish Government.

At the airport Comrade Gromyko was seen off by Comrade Romanov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member; Comrade Bugayev, minister of civil aviation; and other officials. In the send-off party were Sica, the Italian charge d'affaires in the USSR; and Perez-Gomez, the Spanish charge d'affaires.

Gromyko Arrives in Rome

LD251158 Moscow TASS in English 1144 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Rome February 25 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Foreign Affairs Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko arrived in Rome today for an official visit at the invitation of the Italian Government.

The distinguished Soviet visitor was welcomed at the capital's airport by Italy's Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti, other officials, as well as by the USSR's ambassador to Italy Nikolay Lunkov, employees of the embassy and other Soviet institutions in Italy.

BONN SHOWS 'SUBMISSION' TO U.S. MILITARY DESIGNS

LD242302 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov; Viktor Glazunov video report]

[Excerpts] According to the British papers, the U.S. Administration is trying to disarm any of its West European allies that express doubts on plans for the militarization of space by promising them advantageous commercial contracts. This is indicated in particular by the recent statement made by Thatcher, the British prime minister, in Washington where, following the example of Kohl, the West German chancellor, she expressed readiness to join in with scientific research on the star wars program.

[Glazunov] Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. defense secretary, visited the FRG this month. He arrived on a special mission: to persuade the Bonn government to participate in the implementation of the space weapons program, the so-called star wars program. Just before this, Chancellor Kohl, speaking in Munich, gave his support to the new U.S. venture. Indeed, whatever Washington desires with regard to weapons, Bonn responds with a will.

The FRG is the only country to have accepted Pershing II's, and the FRG did not decline cruise missiles, either. Now it is getting involved in the star wars program -- dispiriting evidence of submission to U.S. designs.

FRG'S FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS OPENS

LD232115 Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Saarbruecken February 23 TASS -- A regular congress of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), which forms the government coalition in the FRG together with the CDU-CSU bloc, opened in this West German city today. The attention of the congress is centered on problems connected with this bourgeois-liberal party's crisis in which it has found itself after breaking off coalition cooperation with the Social Democratic Party in 1982. The party's taking the side of the conservatives and its obedient following in the wake of their course towards upholding the interests of monopoly capital have resulted in the biggest decline in FDP's popularity among the country's population in the entire history of the party's existence and have given rise to serious contradictions inside the party.

The main report at the congress was delivered by the party's chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Speaking of the FDP's prospects, he pointed out that the Free Democrats are on the eve of crucial tests -- elections to the land parliaments of Saar and North Rhine-Westphalia, on the outcome of which the future of the party as a whole will depend in many respects. He again declared for a continuation of cooperation with the CDU-CSU.

In the foreign-policy part of the report, Hans-Dietrich Genscher welcomed the Soviet Union's and the United States' decision to start talks on the entire complex of matters concerning space weapons, strategic arms and medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. At the same time he reaffirmed the party's course towards strengthening the "Atlantic solidarity" and emphasized that the alliance with the United States is the necessary prerequisite for ensuring the FRG's security.

SPANISH PAPER CITED ON U.S. INTERCEPTION STATION

LD241908 Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Madrid February 24 TASS -- The communication system of the Spanish capital is under vigilant round-the-clock control of a powerful interception station in the U.S. base in Torrejon de Ardoz at a distance of 20 kilometres from Madrid. The Americans, the newspaper LIBERACION writes, lend a particularly watchful ear to the telephone conversations in Moncloa Palace, the official residence of head of state, King Juan Carlos and the headquarters of the Spanish Armed Forces. [punctuation as received] The American "allies" are not above wiretapping conversations between Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, cabinet ministers and top Army officers.

A modification of the system of antennae has been recently carried out over Moncloa Palace, the newspaper points out. As a result, the "ear" could not hear as distinctly as before. They at Torrejon de Ardoz sounded alarmed. The U.S. Embassy in Madrid hastily formed an espionages crew to find out the changes in the system of the antennae. Denis MacMahan, second secretary of the embassy and a CIA agent, and Johnny F. Massey, a civilian attached to the embassy and Torrejon military base, were detained by the Spanish security service, while they were photographing the antennae on the residence of the government. Both spies were expelled from the country.

The presence in Spain of a powerful American radio interception station, the LIBERACION stresses, is a breach of the agreement between Spain and the USA. The local press points to the high-handedness shown by Washington towards it ally. The local press also recalls that the Pentagon drew up plans for the deployment of American nuclear weapons in Spain even without notifying the Madrid government about that.

ISRAELI STATEMENT ON PLO-JORDAN ACCORD HIT

LD231107 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Bucharest February 22 TASS -- Addressing a press conference held here, Israeli Prime Minister Peres said that the Palestinian problem should be examined "within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord." In so doing he again denied the Palestine Liberation Organization the right to participate in the process of Middle East settlement, by pointing out that Israel could start separate talks with Jordan, but without the participation of PLO representatives.

Thus the Israeli prime minister again tried, obviously with Washington's consent, to gear Jordan to the Camp David course of separate deals and the so-called Reagan plan denying the Palestinian people the right to create its own independent state and aimed at perpetuating the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands.

This statement has been made in the wake of the accord recently reached in Amman between Jordanian King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat on the framework of joint actions with the aim of ensuring a just and peaceful Middle East settlement. The accord has immediately touched off sharp polemics in the Palestine resistance movement and in the Arab countries. The understanding was welcomed among the official circles of Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

In Syria, Democratic Yemen and some other Arab countries the understanding is strongly condemned. It has also been strongly criticized by the leaders of most of the Palestinian organizations. It is pointed out that it leads to a further sharpening of differences within the Palestine resistance movement, undermining the prestige and role of PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, weakens PLO ties with the forces fighting for liberation and progress.

It is noteworthy that there is yet no unanimity on the agreement even in Fatah, among whose leaders is Yasir 'Arafat. According to a REUTER agency report from Tunis, a number of prominent figures of that Palestine Organization refrained from support for the agreement, stressing the need for preserving a principled stand at any talks on Middle East settlement, where "PLO should be represented by an independent delegation."

Official Washington has approved of the Amman agreement. According to President Reagan, it constitutes the first moment when progress has manifested itself. It expressed "optimism" in this connection and again declared against convening an international conference on the Middle East. Judging by the reaction to the Amman accord in the USA and in Israel, which are known to be attempting to force unequal separate deals on the Arabs, they expect a departure of its participants from the line of opposing American-Israeli plans in the Middle East.

U.S. HARBORS PLANS TO CRUSH NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION

LD231917 Moscow TASS in English 1855 GMT 23 Feb 85

["Banking on Armed Brigandage" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Nikolay Chigir writes:

The latest speech of President of the United States Ronald Reagan at a press conference left no doubt that Washington harbours plans to crush the Nicaraguan revolution. The chief of the White House made it plain that his administration set itself the aim of "removing" the Sandinist government by military force and installing in power in Nicaragua the top caste of the so-called "National Guards" of butcher Somoza who was overthrown by the Nicaraguan people.

He is echoed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who in his speech in San Francisco has overtly proclaimed it a moral duty of the USA to participate in attempts at overthrowing unwelcome-to-Washington legitimate governments of independent countries, of Nicaragua, in the first place. He unceremoniously demanded changes in the domestic and foreign policy of the Sandinista government and cynically stated that it was "immaterial" to the United States in which way changes would be achieved. In so doing he threatened that the United States if necessary would not be ashamed of organising a direct action against Nicaragua.

True, the President being apparently aware that outright armed brigandage cannot win him laurels either on the international scene or in the United States tried to impart the semblance of "legality" to the prepared aggression against Nicaragua by resorting to verbiage, distortion of facts and events, falsification of fundamental international documents.

The President of the United States describes as "fighters for freedom and democracy" cutthroats from the Somoza "National Guards" whom Washington is now using as the core of the mercenary army created for fighting against freedom and independence of Nicaragua. Moreover, he tries to present them as a force that, allegedly, took part in the Nicaraguan revolution. To hear the President speak, the revolution in Nicaragua was made by the self-same Somozamen who were driven out of the country by the Nicaraguan people that had risen against the pro-American tyranny.

The absurdity of such assertions is obvious. Nevertheless, the head of the Washington administration makes a recourse to such assertions in an effort to "justify" the need to restore the regime of bloody tyranny in Nicaragua, which by the way, had been installed in power in the past by the U.S. ruling circles. The presidential advisers, apparently, forgot that Ronald Reagan's press conference coincided with the 51st anniversary of the heinous murder of hero of the liberation struggle of the Nicaraguan people Augusto Cesar Sandino. But the Nicaraguan people and entire Latin America remember that Sandino's assassination was staged by Anastasio Somoza on a direct order of the then United States Ambassador in Nicaragua Arthur Bliss Lane who acted in accordance with the instruction of the State Department.

And now, going by the threats made by the White House, Washington would like to do away with leaders of the Sandinist revolution by using Somozamen and to restore in Nicaragua the orders that existed during the dictatorship of the Somoza family.

Trying to get from the U.S. Congress the appropriation of many millions of dollars for military backing for the Somoza thugs guided by the CIA, Reagan tries to present the matters in such a way as if his plans of aggression against Nicaragua are in keeping with the United Nations Charter and the Charter of the Organization of American States.

Not so, Mr. President. Any aggression, no matter by what smokescreen it is camouflaged is at glaring contradiction with the fundamental norms and principles of international law and the documents adopted by the world community.

Thus, the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of December 14, 1974 determines an aggression and stresses that no consideration of any nature, be it political, economic, military or any other can justify an aggression. Similar provisions are contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States.

So no references to the United Nations Charter or the Charter of the Organization of American States can cover up lawlessness, justify international terrorism and armed brigandage which have been made by Washington its state policy.

REGAN JOINS VERBAL ATTACKS ON SANDINISTS

LD241307 Moscow TASS in English 1014 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Washington February 24 TASS -- TASS correspondent I. Ignatyev reports: Pushing ahead with its policy of working up tension in Central America, the White House continues to whip up a vicious anti-Nicaraguan campaign aiming to provide a smokescreen for the aggressive actions that Washington is planning to take against that country.

Taking his cue from President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan also made strident attacks on the Sandinista government. He said bluntly that the United States would not "tolerate" a "Marxist state" north of the Panama Canal. Reflecting the opinion of his boss, Regan made it clear that the United States is not going to discontinue the undeclared war against Nicaragua, which is being waged by mercenary proxies trained and armed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The administration, he stressed, was fully determined to do everything to secure congressional approval for 14 million dollars in direct aid to the gangs of Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries in the current fiscal year.

Using those armed groups of terrorists and homicides whom the head of the White House cynically calls "freedom fighters", the Washington administration tries to topple the Sandinista government and install a pro-American regime in Nicaragua.

ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency reported that the C.I.A. had drawn up a detailed plan to oust the Nicaraguan Government way back three years ago. Quoting knowledgeable officials, the AP correspondent said that high-ranking C.I.A. officers responsible for paramilitary operations had prepared that plan by early 1982 shortly after President "Reagan authorized start of the covert operation against Nicaragua". That plan for subversion and sabotage provided for boosting the number of the C.I.A.-trained and armed mercenaries who were "to march into Managua and seize power" in late 1983. C.I.A. Director William Casey, AP said, had known of the plan.

The striving by the White House to bring about the overthrow of the Sandinista government by force of arms has run up against mounting opposition in the United States. The funding of the covert war against Nicaragua, Congressman Michael Barnes said in the House of Representatives, was not supported by the American people.

KUYBYSHEVSKIY CONSTITUENCY HOLDS ELECTION MEETING

Grishin, Others Speak

LD222046 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] An assembly of the electorate of the capital's Kuybyshevskiy constituency, together with representatives of Moscow party and public organizations, was held today in Moscow, in the Kremlin Hall of Sessions, devoted to a meeting with Candidate Deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Those taking part in the assembly welcomed with applause Comrades Gorbachev, Grishin, Gromyko, Kuznetsov, Zimyanin, and Ligachev.

The assembly was opened by Comrade Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

With great elation an honorary presidium, consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo head by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, was elected for the assembly.

[Begin Grishin recording] Comrades! Soviet people are approaching the elections as a large and important event in the country's public and political life. During its course, the election campaign has vividly laid bare the inexhaustible vital strength of the Soviet system and the socialist social system, and the basic advantages of socialist democracy, which in practice guarantees the true sovereignty of the people and the participation of all working people in managing the affairs of state and society.

Party and government leaders have everywhere been nominated by Soviet people as their first candidates for deputies to union republic supreme soviets. The unanimity with which their nomination was conducted showed with renewed force the monolothic cohesion of the Soviet people around the Communist Party and the support given by the whole people to the domestic and foreign policies of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

The collectives of Moscow enterprises -- of the Khromatron works, the MELZ [Moscow Electric Lightbulb Works] Association, and the Sokol Clothing Association, as well as the Kuybyshev Electrical Works Production Association -- nominated Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium as candidate deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th Convocation, for the No 28 Kuybyshevskiy constituency. The working people of Moscow and all Soviet people know Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko well as a purposeful, principled, and highly industrious person and a leader of the Leninist type who combines a deep understanding of matters and the ability to organize work clearly with broad democratism and exactingness, with a respectful and benevolent attitude to people, and with personal modesty. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko makes an enormous contribution to forming the basic principles of party domestic and foreign policy, and to elaborating ways of implementing these. Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's ever farsighted and timely initiatives are directed toward attaining a single goal -- to make our great country even more flourishing and mighty and to bring to the life of Soviet people even more material provision and spiritual richness.

The enhancement of the role of the soviets in the life of the country, the implementation of the school reform and the intensification of organizational, ideological, and political-educational work are linked with the name of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko. Under the direct leadership of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, preparations are being conducted for the 27th CPSU Congress and a new edition of the party's program is being drafted.

The whole world knows of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's unflagging concern to remove the threat of nuclear war hanging over mankind, strengthen world peace, develop fruitful international links, and deepen cooperation between the countries of the socialist community and between the fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties.

Comrade Chernenko, as leader of the party, state chairman of the Defense Council, and supreme commander in chief, devotes enormous attention to questions of strengthening the security of our country and maintaining its defense capability at an appropriate level, which is the chief guarantee of the peaceful life of the Soviet people, and of the peaceful future of all mankind. [applause]

Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko constantly takes an interest in the life of Moscow, the development of its economy, and the working, domestic, and leisure conditions of its people, and extends great assistance to the work of the city's party organization and the administrative organs in resolving the tasks facing them. He displays constant concern for the Kuybyshevskiy Rayon of Moscow. [applause]

Muscovites derive deep satisfaction from the fact that Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko is their deputy in the supreme soviets of the country and the republic, and is going to stand again as candidate deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet from the Kuybyshevskiy electoral constituency of the city of Moscow. [applause]

Konstantin Ustinovich, following the doctors' recommendation, is not taking part in the present meeting. He has asked me to convey to the voters of the Kuybyshevskiy constituency, to all the working people of Moscow, and to the participants in the meeting, a cordial greeting and wishes for health, well-being, happiness, and successes at work for the good of our socialist homeland. [applause]

Permit me, comrades, to thank Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko warmly for his greeting and good wishes. [applause]

Comrades, thanks to the great attention and aid given by the party Central Committee, the Soviet Government, and Comrade Chernenko, Moscow's economy is constantly developing, the well-being of Muscovites is rising, and their needs and requirements are being satisfied more and more fully.

Muscovites are responding with practical deeds to the party's call for 1985 to be made a year of shock work. For election day, more than 400,000 manual, office, and professional workers have completed the targets for 2 or more months. Intensive work is under way to complete the 5-year plan for the volume of industrial production output by the 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Permit me to assure the party Central Committee and Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko that the working people of Moscow, true to their labor traditions, will successfully fulfill the tasks of 1985 and the 5-year period as a whole and will mark the 27th CPSU Congress in a worthy manner. [applause] [end recording]

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Shikov, a machine setter at the Moscow MELZ Production Association, and agent of the candidate deputy is on the rostrum.

Having told those assembled about the life, career, party, and state activities of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, he said:

[Begin Shikov recording] First of all, on behalf of those present in this hall and on behalf of all Muscovites who are voters of the Kuybyshevskiy constituency of the city of Moscow, I want to express heartfelt thanks to dear Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko for having agreed to stand for election as our constituency's deputy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. [applause]

It is a great joy and honor for us and all Muscovites. With the name of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the people of Moscow, like all Soviet people, link great successes to working out and implementing the party's political course. We have complete grounds for calling the CPSU policy a genuinely Leninist policy; such a policy is approved completely and supported in action by Soviet workers and all Soviet people. With our labor we are filled with resolve to bring about the implementation of all the party's plans.

Comrades, as a worker I want to stress with satisfaction the fact that the career of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, our candidate deputy, is the career of a man of labor. It is the biography, worthy of the highest respect, of a true son of the party and of the socialist homeland. [applause]

In the run-up to the elections the working people of the MELZ association and all Muscovites are unanimous in their desire to demonstrate their loyalty to the cause of the party, to the cause of the great Lenin and communist ideals.

Dear comrades, I call upon all voters of the Kuybyshevskiy constituency of the capital to vote unanimously on 24 February -- the day of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation -- for our candidate, our dear Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. [applause] [end recording]

Marina Nikolayevna Vashchenko, a schoolmistress at school No 371 in Moscow, spoke:

[Begin Vashchenko recording] We, the country's Komsomol members and young people, approve unanimously and support warmly and undividedly the domestic and foreign policy of our party, and the vigorous and fruitful activity of its militant headquarters, the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo with Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko at its head. [applause]

For me and all of my colleagues who have chosen the profession schoolteacher, the life and activity of Konstantin Ustinovich are an inspiring example of Soviet patriotism, Leninist principle, and responsibility for the job that has been entrusted to us, as well as a vivid example of the struggle for communism, and for the happiness of working people. [applause]

I call upon all voters of the Kuybyshevskiy constituency to give their votes unanimously for Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, worthy candidate of the bloc of Communists and nonparty members, true son of the homeland, outstanding figure of the Communist Party, Soviet state, and the international communist and workers' movement. [applause] [end recording]

A speech was delivered by Boris Nikolayevich Khokhlov, head of laboratory at the Moscow Television Scientific Research Institute.

[Begin Khokhlov recording] Comrades: We, the electorate of Moscow, are in a special, elevated mood and have a feeling of high political enthusiasm. Like all my colleagues, I , a representative of the capital's scientific and technological intelligentsia, understand and hold dear the tasks set by the party for intensifying public-sector production, improving the efficiency of the national economy, and accelerating scientific and technological progress. We scientists view our role as enabling those inspiring tasks to be solved as quickly and as well as possible. I call upon the electorate of Kyubyshevskiy constituency to cast their votes on RSFSR Supreme Soviet election day for Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, a worthy representative of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty members. [applause] [end recording]

The floor was then given to Aleksandr Andreyevich Tarasov, general director of the Moscow Kuybyshev Electrical Works Production Association.

[Begin Tarasov recording] The working people and inhabitants of the Kuybyshevskiy Rayon of the capital, and all Muscovites, well know and profoundly respect Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko as an outstanding figure in the Communist Party, the Soviet state, and the international communist and workers movement, who devotes his enormous and multifaceted political experience, knowledge, and energy to implementing our party's Leninist course -- a course of peace and constructive activity -- in the name of the happiness and well being of the Soviet people. [applause] A characteristic feature of Konstantin Ustinovich is his constant interest in how Soviet people live and what their thoughts and aspirations are. [applause] By voting unanimously for our candidate, we will express our own undivided support for the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU, and will demonstrate our monolithic cohesion around the Leninist party and its Central Committee which is confidently leading the Soviet people along the path of building communism. [applause] [end recording]

The chairman, Comrade Grishin, stated that Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko had prepared the text of a speech to the electorate. At the instruction of Comrade Chernenko, his speech was read out at the meeting.

Chernenko Address

PM222120 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 85 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Comrade K.U. Chernenko's Speech"]

[Text] Dear Comrades, I express my sincere gratitude to the working people of the Kuybyshev District of Moscow who again nominated me as candidate to run for the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. I will do my best to justify this great trust, this high honor.

Elections to organs of Soviet power are a direct and vivid manifestation of the political will of the people. And we, Communists, naturally are proud that the Soviet people name, first of all, representatives of the Leninist party -- the leading force of our society -- as their candidates. This is convincing evidence of the support of the policy of the CPSU by the working people, evidence of the inviolable unity of the party and the people.

One year ago at the meeting with the electorate of your district, we had a detailed talk about key questions of domestic and foreign policies, about the progress of implementation of the decisions taken by the 26th CPSU Congress. We spoke of the achievements and difficulties of the past years. We spoke of what we were going to do to make our motherland even stronger and finer, to make the life of every Soviet citizen better and richer in content, and so that there may be peace, a durable and stable peace.

That is why I would like first of all to inform you of what we have managed to accomplished over the past year, a year of extensive and strenuous work for all of us.

You know full well that the party's Central Committee, the Politburo of the Central Committee worked actively in a very wide field. Much attention was devoted to the economy, to improving management and raising the efficiency of the national economy, developing the creative initiative and political activity of the masses, and perfecting ideological work. Serious measures are known to have been taken to strengthen discipline, law, and order. But still, let me tell you straight, there are not enough of them. In this sphere, we have acted and will act in full compliance with the decisions of the November (1982), June (1983), and February (1984) plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

At the same time, we have gone right into dealing with a number of other very important questions of our life. Improvement of the work of the soviets and the school reform, perfection of the party guidance of the Komsomol, and scaling up of the activity of people's control, land improvement, and enhancing of the social function of literature and the arts -- these are but a few problems which we have directed our efforts toward resolving.

The work of the party, as you see, is becoming ever more diverse and manifold. It is quite understandable why. This is required by the strategic course of the CPSU, the course toward the all-around perfecting of socialism built in our country. This is required by the specific features of the present political movement. We have launched preparations for the 27th party congress, the congress that is called upon to play a special role in the history of our party and the destinies of our country. It is precisely the 27th congress that is to adopt a new edition of the party program.

This will be the program for perfecting developed socialism, the program of a great constructive endeavor that will make it possible to fully translate our socialist ideals into life. This means to bring nearer the possibility of fulfilling the tasks directly linked with the construction of communism which was and remains our lofty goal, to bring about a sharp rise in labor productivity and material well-being of the people with all-around flourishing of spiritual culture, and to ensure complete and universal assertion of social justice inherent in our system with its key principle: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work." Such are the tasks of historic significance which should, in our opinion, find reflection in the new edition of the program of the CPSU, the work on which is now entering the final stage.

Someone, perhaps, may say: Aren't we getting carried away by formulating long-term tasks, while far from all current problems in this country have been resolved to meet the standards of developed socialism?

Here is how I would answer this question. It is possible to solve short-term, urgent problems successfully only by having a clear perspective for the future, clearly realizing the scale of future work. And the confidence that we will cope with that task is based on scientifically substantiated, realistic forecasts. This confidence is based on fully realistic achievements of the recent time, on the results which we have achieved, overcoming certain negative tendencies in our development.

Let us turn to the economic results of the past year. They speak of further steady progress of industry, of a substantial buildup of manufacturing capacities in key sectors of the national economy, and of the growth of our social wealth.

I will not quote the figures. They have been published in the press. I would like to draw your attention to only one indicator; I mean labor productivity. Higher labor productivity accounts for almost the entire increase in the national income.

From this follows an important conclusion: The Soviet economy ever more firmly establishes itself on the road of intensive development. This is the first and foremost concern of ours, both for today and tomorrow, for the present level of labor productivity, comrades, cannot satisfy us at all.

To produce more with less costs -- such, it would seem, is the simple forumla of intensive economic growth, but all of us know how difficult it is to translate that into reality. There is a host of problems -- organizational and technical, moral and psychological. We are dealing with them more confidently now.

The working people show a higher sense of responsibility for their work. Last year, for example, enterprises met their obligations concerning mutual deliveries to a higher degree than in all previous years of the 5-year plan period. Tens of thousands of work collectives got down busily to economizing raw material and fuel. Now it is one of the most pressing problems.

All this tangible evidence that our economy is advancing to a qualitatively new stage of its development. In this process, there are achievements which are particularly gratifying to us. Among these, I am gratified to note the successes of the working people of your district. I have before me the data for the 4 years of the current 5-year plan period. Labor productivity in your district's industry grew over 50 percent more quickly than planned. Here are data for last year. You, just like the country's other collectives, undertook to raise the productivity of labor by at least 1 percent in excess of the plan but raised it by more than 2 percent. A remarkable result. Well done, comrades!

The working people of Moscow as a whole are working energetically in the 11th 5-Year Plan period. They gave their word to attain the planned targets ahead of time, and we all know that the Muscovites are good at keeping their word. It was not just luck that, on the strength of the results of socialist emulation for 1984, Moscow and its Kuybyshev District have been awarded the Challenge Red Banners of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League.

It is known, comrades, that a rise in the people's well-being is the ultimate goal of all our efforts in the economic sphere. We make continuous headway in this field from year to year. Take, frankly speaking, such an urgent matter as the satisfaction of the population's growing demand for durable, high-quality goods. The fundamental line towards the priority development of the industries which manufacture consumer goods has been consistently sustained throughout 4 years of the current 5-year period.

We set such a task previously, too, but did not always manage to accomplish it. A real and practical change for the better has now taken place.

It is good that heavy industry branches more actively join in the solution of this question. Last year their share in the manufacture of consumer goods grew up to 30 percent. The social meaning of this, and political one, too, is clear to everyone. Our powerful industry to a still greater extent works directly for the good of people.

At the same time, we all know that to improve the quality of our consumer goods still remains quite a topical concern.

It is gratifying to note the success in the solution of the housing problem. In 1984 alone, 2 million well appointed apartments were built. Forty million people were rehoused over the 4 years of the current 5-year plan period. And there is every reason to believe that the housing construction program, the largest one in the history of 5-year plan periods, will be not only implemented but exceeded as well.

For a number of years we have been consistently taking measures to improve the working and living conditions of women who have children and increasing benefits to families with many children. Among our top-priority concerns are an accelerated construction of nurseries and kindergartens, an increase in the production of and a rise in the quality of goods for children.

We devote unflagging attention to building up the health of Soviet people. The party takes a broad view of this task. It encompasses efforts to make working conditions healthier, to protect the environment, to develop a truly mass physical culture movement, and, of course, first and foremost, to perfect the medical service of the population.

You know, comrades, that the party and our state are making more exacting demands upon the work of the health-service bodies and consistently working to overcome the serious drawbacks existing in this field. At the same time, we also see well the need to improve the working and living conditions of medical personnel. In particular, the question of starting the realization of measures next year to raise salaries for the health-service workers is now under consideration. This will be undoubtedly a big step in the social policy of the party because this concerns the well-being of more than five million people.

In a nutshell, a lot of good is being done for people. But, frankly speaking, it is necessary that much more should be done. What hinders that?

The answer, I think, is clear. The living standard and quality of life in our society rise from year to year commensurately with our work. Not less than that, but not more than that, either. This means that in order to raise the people's well-being more rapidly, it is essential to improve our work in all sectors more quickly and thoroughly.

This is what the party and its Central Committee strive for. They persistently steer matters to securing a real turning point in the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and a rise in the efficiency of the Soviet economy before the end of the eighties.

In this connection, I want to emphasize the following. Everyone, one can say, has broadly realized the need for qualitative changes in our economic work. What is needed is more resolutely to effect these changes in practice. It is essential to master more boldly and without delays everything useful and valuable that has already been produced for us by the economic experiments, advanced forms and methods of economic management. It is even more essential because we are in the concluding year of the current 5-year plan period. In order to worthily attain the planned goals of the period, I repeat once again, a large amount of persistent work with initiative will be needed.

Planning and management, the economic mechanism and the system of remuneration of labor -- all should be now perfected without procrastination. In our calendar there is no time which would be specifically allotted for this kind of work.

Many interesting ideas and sound mandates on how to improve the work of our bodies of power and economic management have been expressed during the election campaign. The task of the soviets is thoroughly and with the utmost attention to study and generalize them. The main thing is to translate them into life and introduce them to practice.

Comrades, little time separates us from the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War. The heroic Soviet people under the leadership of the Leninist party defended their socialist motherland in the hardest battle against the Hitlerite hordes, brought freedom to Europe, and saved the world civilization from fascist barbarity. This feat of arms will never fade!

We revere the memory of those who died for the freedom and independence of our motherland. We have considered and still consider it our high duty to constantly care for the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, for their health, living, and welfare conditions.

In connection with the 40th anniversary of the victory, it seems appropriate to emphasize again the entire importance of the purposeful and efficient work for the patriotic education of working people, especially of the young generation. The everlasting purpose of our entire ideological work is to cultivate in Soviet people love for the motherland and an unshakable readiness to defend the socialist gains.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I want to congratulate our servicemen and all of you, comrades, on the approaching holiday -- Soviet Army and Navy Day. Soviet people may rest assured: The party and state have done and will do everything for our Armed Forces to be able reliably to protect the peaceful life of the people and for the country's defence capacity to be always at a proper level.

Comrades, we, the generation of today, are first and foremost duty bound to prevent a new world conflagration, to save life on earth. The present-day complicated international situation necessitates high vigilance, firmness, restraint, and, certainly, vigorous actions to improve the international climate.

It is of great benefit to the cause of peace and international security that there is the community of socialist states in the world consistently upholding the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence in the international arena. Throughout the past years we spared no effort to ensure that cooperation of the countries of socialism in all fields should strengthen and broaden.

Strength in unity was the old watchword of the working class movement. Today it is fully applicable to the fraternal socialist countries.

We have jointly foiled the designs of the imperialists to exhaust socialism economically. In recent years our countries have made further headway in their socioeconomic development, and what is important, we are becoming economically less vulnerable to external effects. This is, in particular, the aim of the decisions of last year's summit conference of the CEMA member-countries, on whose implementation we are all working now. The process of socialist economic integration is picking up speed, the international socialist division of labor is gaining in depth. Every individual fraternal country and the whole socialist community benefit from it.

By acting jointly we have prevented the USA and its allies from upsetting the military-strategic parity in their favor. This is going to happen in the future too, for our fraternal alliance is indestructible.

The 30th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty is to be celebrated soon. I can inform you that all the parties to the treaty have declared for prolonging it. Under the conditions when the aggressive imperialist NATO bloc continues to act, we need, as before, a concerted, well-coordinated peaceable foreign policy and a reliable shield for peaceful labor.

We are for enhancing the role and influence of the world socialist system as a whole in the international arena. In this connection we attach much significance to normalizing relations with the People's Republic of China. Useful steps were taken in this respect last year. Although we cannot but see the continuing serious political differences, we would like to hope that Soviet-Chinese relations will be further favorably developed by the efforts of both sides.

We cooperate with all peaceable forces on earth in strengthening international security. In this day and age it means, in particular, cooperation with the freedom-loving, independent states of the former colonial and semicolonial world. All such states -- from great India to small Benin, from the neighboring Arab countries to the distant republics of Central and South America -- are our natural and like-minded partners when it comes to the defense of the rights of the peoples and peaceful future for mankind. We treasure friendship with them and will develop and strengthen it.

Comrades, the core of our foreign policy today is, of course, the struggle for terminating the arms race imposed by imperialism, for averting the threat of a world nuclear war.

We are at the threshold of new negotiations with the United States. Both sides have stated that they enter them to prevent an arms race in space and terminate it on earth. They have come to terms to consider and resolve questions of space and nuclear arms as a complex, in their interrelationship, which is absolutely indispensable to the success of the undertaking. This is the essence of the Geneva Accord. I would like to state once again with all clarity what our intentions in connection with the forthcoming talks are.

First: We do not strive to acquire any unilateral advantages over the United States and NATO countries, or for military superiority over them. We do not need it, as we have no intention of either threatening them or imposing our will on them, but want to live in peace and maintain normal, good relations with them.

Second: We want termination, and not continuation, of the arms race. This is precisely why the Soviet Union raises the question of such opening steps as a freeze on nuclear arsenals of the sides, an end to further deployment of missiles, etc. We consider the use of the negotiations for opposite purposes -- for justifying and camouflaging further buildup and deployment of mass annihilation systems -- to be an immoral and dishonorable business, a deception of peoples and a crime against them.

And third: We want a real reduction of the arms stockpiles, destruction of a substantial portion of them by way of a beginning, and not the development of increasingly new weapon systems, be it in space or on earth, offensive or purportedly defensive systems. Our ultimate objective here is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere on this planet, the complete removal of the threat of nuclear war.

The divergence of views of the sides on the matters that will be discussed is great now. This is obvious to all. There is no shortage of gloomy forecasts which doom the negotiations to failure in advance, but we do not share them.

Agreement is absolutely necessary and quite possible. It is necessary because, otherwise, the world will with increasing speed keep sliding down the inclined plane of the arms race and the threat of war will grow. Agreement is quite possible because what is needed for that end is simply to respect the rights and legitimate security interests of both sides, not to strive to upset the existing equilibrium of forces.

We call upon the leaders of the United States of America to approach the forthcoming negotiations seriously and in good faith. We call upon them to get rid of the senseless hopes for military superiority over the Soviet Union, for conducting negotiations with us from "positions of strength." We call upon them to renounce attempts at imposing such an agreement on us that will unilaterally bind the hands of the Soviet Union in strengthening its defenses, while throwing the doors wide open for the realization of record-high military programs drafted by Washington.

Such attempts bear absolutely no promise, yet they can undermine the possibility of agreement, which the peoples of our countries and all peoples are looking forward to, wishing lasting peace and a tranquil, happy life.

Comrades, the 40th year since victory prompts all of us to look once again both at our wartime experiences, at what was after the war, and the prospects, which are opening to the world today.

The countries of the coalition which defeated fascism belonged to different social systems. Yet they became allies. Their leaders succeeded in jointly outlining the fundamentals of the postwar arrangement. These fundamentals are recorded in the documents of Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. Their main essence remains topical today as well: It is to translate into practice mankind's greatest desire -- lasting peace. A way towards that was also charted -- to preserve the unity of aims and actions, which made it possible to defeat nazism and deliver the peoples from enslavement by the Hitlerites.

Some people might say that this could have happened only because there was war, that Hitlerism was seen as a universal danger. This is true. But in this day, too, mankind, all peoples, have a common deadly enemy -- the threat of a world nuclear catastrophe.

Take the events of the past decade. The leaders of the states of East and West were able, despite the serious differences dividing them, to display the necessary determination and understanding of the demands of the times. They made major strides towards lasting peace. A solid fabric of mutually beneficial cooperation began emerging, and long-term principles of peaceful mutual relations were outlined by joint effort.

We find these principles in the document, which put on record the fundamentals of relations between the USSR and the USA, in the agreement between them on preventing nuclear war. They were also mirrored in the treaties of the socialist countries with the FRG, which sealed the postwar realities in Europe. They, finally, won collective approval and were further developed in the Final Act of the European Conference in Helsinki.

Now history poses even more urgently the question of mankind's future. Courage and foresight in statesmen have become even more indispensable. I have already had occasion to speak of the enormous significance that a binding agreement between the nuclear powers could have, an agreement to observe certain norms in their mutual relations so as to prevent the outbreak of nuclear war. Our proposal on this score remains in effect.

We also believe that in celebrating the 40th anniversary since the end of the most terrible and destructive of wars, the leaders of the USSR and the USA could jointly reaffirm, in a form suitable to both countries, the essence and spirit of the main commitments undertaken by both countries at the end of the war and in the agreements of the seventies. They could declare their intention to act further in their foreign policy in the spirit of these commitments. This would certainly help toward strengthening mutual trust and toward a general improvement of the world situation. I am confident that such a joint act would win the support of all peaceable states and of all peoples.

Comrades, elections to the soviets of peoples deputies are always a signal event in our country's life. This is indeed a triumphant event -- the triumph of socialist democracy, the democracy which, genuinely, in practice, ensures the broad, interested participation of millions of working people in the administration of the state. The election campaign has vividly demonstrated the growing consciousness, labor, and public activeness of the masses. This, as Lenin more than once stressed, is the inexhaustible source of our system's strength.

The day after tomorrow Soviet citizens will come to the polling stations in all 15 Soviet Union republics. By voting for the candidates of the indissoluble bloc of Communists and nonparty members, they will express their will to peace, and the readiness to strengthen in every way the fraternal friendship of the peoples of the USSR, to struggle with fresh vigor for further salutary changes in every corner of our great homeland.

Allow me once again to thank you with all my heart for your trust. To us Communists no striving is loftier and no happiness is greater than selflessly to serve the homeland, our people.

I wish you, dear comrades, good health, well being and great successes in work, in all of your activities!

TV Shows Leaders Present

LD222005 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 22 February, in the "Vremya" newscast, carries as the first item a 17-minute announcer-read report on the Kremlin meeting at which Chernenko's speech to his voters was delivered, showing clips of the meeting with recorded excerpts of the speakers' voices.

The video begins by showing the audience rising to welcome the appearance of the leaders. A medium-long shot of leaders on the platform shows, from left to right: unidentified person, Ligachev, Zimyanin, Kuznetsov, Gorbachev, Grishin, Gromyko, and two unidentified persons. Grishin is shown delivering his opening speech.

Various clips of the audience show military leaders, including Marshal of the Soviet Union Kurkotkin, seated in a group of four military chiefs consisting of, from left to right on the screen: unidentified person, Marshal of the Soviet Union Kurkotkin, Marshal of the Soviet Union Petrov, and Army General Shabanov. Army General Gribkov, Marshal of the Soviet Union Kulikov, and Army General Yepishev are also shown, each seated in the audience beside an unidentified military figure. Following Grishin's speech various workers representatives are also shown speaking at the rostrum. The video ends at the point where Chernenko's speech is mentioned. At this point the television studio is shown, where Chernenko's speech is read out by Igor Kirillov, one of the "Vremya" bulletin's two announcers.

CHERNENKO, TIKHONOV VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

LD241205 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Today is election day for the supreme soviets of union and autonomous republics and for local soviets of peoples deputies.

Polling station of Moscow's Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon:

Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, is casting his vote here.

Taisiya Borisovna Travnikova, secretary of the polling station electoral commission, greeted Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko on election day. Viktor Vasilyevich Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow City Party Committee, was among those present.

Nikolay Aleksandrovich Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, voted in the polling station of Moscow's Leninskiy Rayon.

Video of Chernenko Voting

LD241339 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1215 GMT on 24 February in a scheduled feature entitled "Today Is Election Day," carries a 2.5-minute video report showing Konstantin Chernenko casting his vote at Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon in Moscow.

The clip opens with a shot of Chernenko seated tapping the fingers of his left hand on a desk. The official, a woman, comes over to him and hands him the ballot papers. His right hand goes into his top pocket: He spends some seconds trying to get something out, but the camera cuts to a long shot before the viewer can discern what it is. He is shown taking one of the ballot papers into his left hand and, nodding slightly, listening to explanations from the polling official.

A long shot shows a rear view of Chernenko continuing to receive instructions from the polling officer and taking more ballot papers into his hand. Three men are seen standing in the background beside a large white bust of Lenin: Grishin stands in the middle flanked by two unidentified men.

Next there is a medium shot of the still-seated Chernenko, with the polling officer still standing next to him and explaining something. Chernenko is still holding the ballot papers in his left hand, which rests on the desk. The camera zooms in on the ballot papers.

In a medium-long shot, three officials are shown again. Grishin is shown gesticulating and speaking jovially in the direction of the off-camera Chernenko.

After a brief glimpse of a row of photographers, Chernenko, in a medium shot, is shown standing unaided while dropping the ballot paper into the ballot box and immediately placing his right hand to rest lightly on the box.

In a further medium shot, a girl presents flowers. He shakes her hand, taking the flowers in his other hand.

Chernenko says: "Congratulations to you too on the holiday." Grishin gives Chernenko flowers, and Chernenko takes them and passes them to an unidentified aide in a brown suit. One of the other unidentified officials also presents flowers and they are passed to the same aide in the brown suit. Chernenko raises his right hand to brow level and utters, "Fine!"

During the previous two shots -- Chernenko at the ballot box and receiving flowers -- the unidentified aide in a brown suit is standing immediately behind Chernenko and to his right. He is shown on two occasions to extend his hand just behind Chernenko and reacts to Chernenko's every movement. As already mentioned, he takes the flowers from Chernenko, but he grasps them with some difficulty in just one hand, keeping his left hand free. After a brief shot of a line of cameramen, Chernenko is shown in a final shot standing unaided with the others.

RSFSR ELECTORAL COMMISSION MEETS 24 FEBRUARY

LD242152 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission for the RSFSR Supreme Soviet elections met today at 2000 at the House of Unions in Moscow. A report was made by the commission chairman, Viktor Fadeyevich Sokolov, on the progress of voting in the republic. Speaking to the gathering, he said, among other things:

[Begin Sokolov recording] There is a great nationwide festival in our country today. Elections are being held everywhere both for the supreme soviets of the union republics and for the local soviets of peoples deputies. Like all the soviet people, the working people of the Russian Federation are at one in their urge to cast their votes for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communist and nonparty members. Voters everywhere are expressing their fervent approval of the CPSU's internal and foreign policies, and stating their firm determination successfully to carry out tasks of the final year of the 5-year plan, and to celebrate the 27th CPSU Congress and the 40th anniversary of the great victory with new labor achievements.

The working people received with profound satisfaction the speech of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to the electorate of Kuybyshev constituency in Moscow. Konstantin Ustinovich gave a comprehensive analysis of the main problems of internal life and the modern international situation, and named the key directions for the further development of the economy and the perfection of a society of developed socialism.

Some 99 million people are taking part in the elections in the Russian Federation. By noon, 84,647,310 people had voted in the RSFSR, or 85.28 percent of the electorate. In the town of Mosocw, 88 percent of the electorate had voted by noon. Voters of the Kuybyshev constituency are voting with great enthusiasm -- Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko is standing here as candidate. By 1800, almost all voters included in the list had voted here. Now, while we are holding our session, voting has finished in the Far East, Siberia, and the Urals. Voters on ships of the marine, river, and fishing fleets, and those in military units, have voted, as have those at polling stations in far-flung, inaccessible areas.

As Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko said in his speech, the elections to the soviets are always a festive event in the life of our country. It is truly the victory of socialist democracy, which really ensures the broad participation of millions of working people in the management of the state. Voting for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty members, they are expressing their will for peace and their readiness in every way to strengthen the economic might of the Soviet state. [end recording]

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES 7 FEB VOTERS MEETING

PM180950 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 10 Feb 85 pp 1-3

[GRUZINFORM report: "United of Party and People: Voters' Meeting With E.A. Shevardnadze"]

[Text] As was already reported, a meeting took place on 7 February between the voters of Rikhskiy Electoral Okrug No 336 in Zugdidskiy Rayon and Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, candidate deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet. The election meeting was addressed by Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, who was greeted warmly by the voters. He said:

Dear friends: This is the third time you have nominated me as your candidate deputy to the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet, the third time you have done me this great honor. It is very difficult to worthily represent in the republic's highest legislative body Zugdidskiy Rayon's more than 121,000 Communists and nonparty people, workers and employees, kolkhoz members, young men and women, and veterans of the revolution, the party and Komsomol, labor, and the Great Patriotic War; to represent one of our republic's significant, constantly developing industrial and agrarian regions whose working people have every reason to be proud of their rich revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions and where many glorious sons of our great motherland were raised.

Permit me to express cordial gratitude to all of you, and through you to all the working people of Zugdidi City and Zugdidskiy Rayon for this lofty trust. I also would like to say here that, of course, I relate the warm, moving words of the speakers here about the candidate deputy entirely to our great educator and leader -- the CPSU.

Every new election to the supreme and local soviets marks a new stage of development. On that day, Soviet people sum up the results of work to resolve the tasks of improving socialism; on that day they pinpoint the new, higher tasks for the future which were formulated with such clarity and scientific profundity in the article by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, "meeting the demands of developed socialism." These tasks must be our sure guide and lodestar for the future. This work arms Soviet people with confidence in the future and with clear optimism, and lifts their spirits.

That is why such a businesslike mood prevails in this auditorium and in every city, rayon, village, settlement, and labor collective in our country. That is why such a unanimous rallying of the Soviet people around the Communist Party and such selflessness on the part of every working person in the name of the unconditional fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums can now be sensed everywhere.

Our meeting is taking place at a noteworthy time, when active preparations are widening throughout the country for the 27th CPSU Congress and the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War. The election campaign is a searching precongress review, to some extent generalizing and evaluating the experience accumulated and reaffirming the wise, realistic, and constructive nature of the Leninist Communist Party's domestic and foreign campaign.

Soviet people are profoundly grateful to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and Comrade K.U. Chernenko for keeping the problems of peace and detente constantly in mind. Our party's struggle for peace and social progress is now entering the most crucial phase. Basically it is a struggle to save mankind from nuclear catastrophe, which is indeed a question of vital importance for everyone, and it is no accident that the new Soviet peace initiatives are meeting with an ever great positive response among the planet's progressive public.

Soviet people express firm support for our party's course above all through their labor participation, their labor heroism. They regard the call to struggle for peace not as a vague phrase, but as concrete guidance for action, strengthening the moral and political unity of the multinational Soviet people, and enhancing the motherland's economic might and defense capability. Our glorious working people are very well aware that the struggle for peace begins at the machine tool, at the combine steering wheel, on the construction site, and in the science laboratory.

It is their high level of consciousness which has predetermined the marked improvements and substantial achievements in the development of the country's national economy and the fulfillment of plans and socialist pledges. Much has been done toward the further intensification of production and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. The working people's living standard is steadily improving on this firm basis.

The soviets are the supreme assembly, founded by Lenin, consisting of the worthiest people and created by the collective will, wisdom, and intelligence of the working people. As a rule, Soviet people name the worthiest people as their envoys to these assemblies of the whole people. These elections are no exception in this respect. All over our country the best representatives of our working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the intelligentsia, the Army, Navy, and leaders of the party and government have been nominated as candidate deputies.

It is therefore quite natural that Soviet people named as their first candidate a person who is dear and close to us all -- Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The candidate deputies' meetings with voters, which are now taking place all over the country, the entire election campaign, and the elections themselves are clear evidence of the profoundly democratic and humanistic nature of our social system and the vitality of real socialism and the Soviet way of life.

This is the inexhaustible source of the growth of the working people's labor, political, and civic activeness which is now in full swing in every labor collective in the republic and in the country as a whole.

Surely this is confirmed by the remarkable patriotic initiative of the republic's labor collectives, which have launched a wide socialist competition to fulfill the plan targets for the first 2 months of this year by election day -- 24 February -- and are thereby preparing fitting labor gifts for the Leninist party's 27th congress. It is also vividly confirmed by the initiative of the working people of Rukhi -- to declare every day a day of shock work until the start of the congress.

One very good, useful tradition that has long been established among us is a manifestation of the soviets' profoundly democratic nature: Every new meeting of deputies or candidate deputies with the voters is, as a rule, not so much a festival as a kind of mutual report, an opportunity for discussion by all the people of the tasks for the future.

It has not been so very long since the last elections to the union and autonomous republic supreme soviets and the local soviets. A further increase in economic and cultural potential, systematic growth in the production of industrial and agricultural output, the development of all other sectors of the national economy, an increase in the people's material and cultural benefits -- these, in brief, are the most general end results of the joint efforts of Communists, all working people, party, soviet, and economic organs, and trade union, Komsomol, and other public organizations in our republic during this period.

In fulfilling the decisions of the party Central Committee and the country's government and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's advice, the republic has in the last 10 years managed to double its general economic and industrial potential. The scale of capital construction has almost doubled and procurements of the main agricultural products have doubled, trebled, or more. In terms of the rate of growth in many of the most important indicators of socioeconomic development and in terms of other indicators Georgia has reached leading positions in the country.

The last 5 years have seen an increase of nearly 30 percent in the global social product and 27 percent in the national income produced. The republic now produces 28 percent more industrial output and nearly 10 percent more agricultural output than in 1979. More than one-third of our main national asset -- our fixed production capital -- has been put into operation during that short period of time. The republic's national economy now produces nearly 20 percent more material assets per worker than it did 5 years ago.

The indicators of the growth in the people's living standard are no less impressive. In the last 5 years alone the volume of national income per capita increased by 23.8 percent, and real income by 17.7 percent. Each working person now acquires various goods worth R1,014 in the state and cooperative trade network, which is R218 more than 5 years ago. In the same period the volume of consumer services per person increased from R28 to nearly R43, while 726,000 people, or 1 in every 6 or 7 citizens of the republic, improved their housing conditions.

You will agree that these are considerable successes. Every percentage point of economic growth, the "weight" of which inevitably increases in line with the republic's economic and social development, contains an investment of selfless creative labor by the working people of Soviet Georgia of the eighties, the talent and energy of the worker and scientist, kolkhoz member, writer, teacher, doctor, minister, party worker, voter, deputy, and representatives of every nation and ethnic group, -- every one of us.

We can and should be proud of these successes, because they were achieved in extremely complex conditions. Each of us remembers well the great damage that was done to our agriculture in 1982-83 by natural disasters and bad weather, and how hard it was under the conditions of limited material resources and the lowering of plan targets, for the enterprises of union ministries and departments located in the republic to secure the planned route of development of production and reach the 5-year plan targets.

It can now be said without exaggeration that thanks to the all-around quest for and utilization of internal production reserves at literally every work place; the maximum mobilization of local potential; the rational expenditure of raw materials, fuel, power, and other material resources: the day-to-day improvement of the structure, forms, and methods of management; the wide development of socialist competition; and the increase in the effectiveness of political and organizational work, it has been possible to resolve a task of tremendous importance.

Both the republic as a whole and all the cities and rayons, and the majority of labor collectives, ministries, departments, and industrial and agricultural enterprises ensured the fulfillment of the most important indicators of economic and social development outlined for the first 4 years of the 5-year plan and thereby created all the necessary material and spiritual prerequisites for the unconditional fulfillment of targets for the 11th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

In order to present the scale and significance of the work done with the utmost clarity, I will cite just one fact: In the first 4 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan above-plan industrial output was produced to the tune of R864 million, which is as much as was produced in 33 days in 1979. This made it possible to increase industrial output by an additional 10 percent compared with the indicator arrived at from the sum of enterprises' plans. Naturally, without this above-plan output there is no way we could have reached the level of the 5-year plan targets -- to increase the volume of industrial production in the republic by 22.1 percent.

These achievements are determined to a significant degree by the successful implementation of the tasks set for 1984. Suffice it to say that the national income produced in the republic last year increased by R780 million, and its total volume was R10 billion, with a growth rate of 7 percent, whereas the average annual indicator over the first 3 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan did not exceed 4.4 percent. A decisive role in this acceleration of the rate of economic growth belongs to the purposeful, steady development of all sectors of the national economy.

Last year industrial workers produced R680 million worth of output more than in the previous year, bringing the volume of industrial output to R11.5 billion, an increase of 6.3 percent, whereas the average annual indicator for the previous 3 years was 4.9 percent. The increase in labor productivity accounted for 81 percent of the growth in output, while savings worth some R50 million were obtained as a result of the reduction in the prime cost of output.

The rural workers achievements are also gratifying. In 1984 above-plan agricultural output was produced to the tune of R2.4 billion. The production growth rate was 7.5 percent, which is 6.2 percentage points higher than the average annual indicator for the preceding period of the 11th 5-Year Plan. Some 577,000 metric tons of tea were harvested and handed over to the state and 915,000 tons of grapes, 350,000 tons of citrus fruits, 580,000 tons of other fruit, and a lot of other produce were produced.

A large-scale program of capital construction was fulfilled. The rate of growth of capital investments was 8.2 percent, which was 2.7 percentage points higher than the average annual indicator for the previous 3 years. Fixed captial worth R2.2 million was commissioned. Nearly 1.8 million square meters of housing, or 27,500 well appointed apartments, were commissioned. This enabled 150,000 people to improve their housing conditions. In the same period, general education schools for 22,000 pupils and preschool institutions for 11,000 kids were built. New hospitals, clinics, and other social, cultural, and consumer facilities were handed over.

Considerable successes were achieved in the development of all forms of transport and communications. Plan targets for shipments of national economic freight and passengers were overfullfilled. Qualitative indicators concerning the sector's work improved.

Positive trends emerged in the development of trade and consumer services to the population.

Last year saw a 7.2-percent increase in the total volume of trade turnover in state and cooperative trade.

Compared with the previous year, 6 percent more meat and meat products were sold to the population along with 13 percent more animal fats, 8 percent more milk, 24 percent more vegetables, 7 percent more citrus and other fruits, 13 percent more leather footwear, and 11 percent more furniture. Supplies of many other very important types of food and industrial products were also extended to the population.

In 1984 the volume of consumer services to the population increased by 10.4 percent, including an 18-percent increase in the countryside.

We are glad to see that the working people of Zugdidi and Zugdidskiy Rayon are greeting these elections with substantial successes in various spheres of activity. The path from election to election covers only 5 years. But in that short space of time very much has been done, the economy has developed dynamically, and the population's living standard has improved.

Zugdidi City today produces far more industrial output per inhabitant and Zugdidskiy Rayon far more agricultural output than the average for the republic; the city's 17 industrial enterprises produce some 250 types of articles worth nearly R200 million, with a figure of R165 million in the rayon.

The industrial character of the region is emerging increasingly clearly. Thus at the Zugdidi machine-building plant a strong collective of workers, engineers, and technicians is being created, capable of successfully resolving the most complex technical and technological tasks. Only recently it would probably have been hard to imagine that such a plant would grow up here and that local young men and women would take their places at the machines in an enterprise equipped with complex machinery.

Meanwhile, another large enterprise equipped with the latest machinery and technology is being built, where several thousand people will grow up and become accustomed to modern scientific and technical thinking. The enterprise will produce output worth millions of rubles, or nearly as much as the city's entire industry now produces in 6 months.

I must say also that the relatively old enterprises which exist in Zugdidi are developing fairly intensively. Specifically, I have in mind the Ingurskiy pulp and paper combine, where many interesting innovations have been introduced in recent years. It is gratifying that the combine's leadership constantly seeks new ways of improving production efficiency and is concerned with improving the working and living conditions of workers and employees.

Much has undoubtedly been achieved in the rayon thanks to the construction of the tea-packing factory. An integrated cycle has thus been created: from the tea plantation to the consumer. Now the tea harvesting, primary and secondary processing, weighing, packaging, and delivery of the finished product to the consumer are all in the same reliable hands.

All this has had a beneficial effect on improving the quality of the republic's most prestigious product -- tea. Is this not indicated by the fact that the factory, which, since the day it was commissioned, has packaged and delivered to the consumer more than 20,000 metric tons of tea, did not receive a single advertisement?

The people of Zugdidi have made a significant contribution to developing electricity generation in Soviet Georgia. Suffice it to say that the Ingurskaya GES accounts for almost one-fifth of the electricity produced in the republic. Quite recently the famous collective of construction workers of the hydroelectric cascade celebrated another event: Construction of the powerful new Khudonskaya GES was begun.

In my view, it is very significant that a special construction trust has been set up in Zugdidi, which this year will fulfill construction and installation work to the tune of R18 million. Its capacity will increase so much in the future that it will be able to assimilate up to R40 million of capital investments. Yesterday we met with the trust collective and its leadership and were convinced that the new construction and industrial base is being created on reliable foundations.

All this has been created by your labor and talent. It is all the culmination of your creative labor and search for reserves to increase the region's production and economic potential -- as a result of which the fuller and more efficient utilization of its very rich natural, material, and labor resources is ensured.

Precisely this was the impression made on me and the other comrades with whom we visited this organization by the experimental factory for the primary processing of tea. It is my profound conviction that this factory is the model on which primary tea processing must be developed in Georgia in the future. All the conditions exist, and we must see to it without fail that this enterprise acquires high standards. And this requires that the construction of such enterprises be based on the modern achievements of automation and mechanization wherever possible.

The region's economic development is also well attested by the fact that during the first 4 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan alone the industrial potential of the city increased almost 46 percent, that of the rayon increased 90 percent, and in the region as a whole above-plan industrial output worth almost R40 million was produced. During the same period, the level of labor productivity increased 34 percent in city industry and 62 percent in rayon industry. It should also be pointed out that last year the entire increase in industrial output in the region was secured on the basis of this factor.

The achievements are no less significant in the development of agriculture. Over the past 4 years, the average annual production of agricultural output in the rayon increased 5 percent, and last year its total volume exceeded R70 million. Over the same period, state purchases of livestock and poultry meat increased 24 percent, those of milk increased 17 percent, high-grade leaf tea 11 percent, fruits 15 percent, citrus fruits 68 percent, and vegetables 12 percent.

I wish to express great and sincere gratitude to the rayon's working people, leaders, and specialists and all who have taken the correct course in developing citrus fruit farming (we also spoke of this during the previous meeting). The numerical expression of this correct course was the fact that more than 10,000 metric tons of citrus fruit were procured in the rayon last year. And this attests that Zugdidskiy Rayon is gradually becoming a rayon of large-scale citrus farming. And if you also devote more attention to the cultivation of lemons, the working people can only be grateful to you.

The positive results in agricultural production have effected the population's living standards. The people who create these benefits live well and are comfortably well off. Your region is a graphic example of the way in which the substantial differences between the city and the countryside and between the everyday life of urban and rural inhabitants are gradually being overcome, I would say, to the benefit of the latter. In Zugdidskiy Rayon, for example, one family in four has a car, not to mention a television set. All villages are linked to the rayon center by bus services. Some 38 of the 43 secondary general educational schools are housed in standard buildings. The network of kindergartens and creches covers 70 percent of children.

(In this respect Zugdidskiy Rayon is one of the leaders and sets an example for others.) Many developed industrial centers do not compare with Zugdidskiy Rayon today in terms of the level of development of the trade network and consumer services.

As we have already said, every height scaled is always followed by a new one, which must also be scaled. More extensive and complex tasks are being outlined. Such is our dialectic of progress and development.

Indeed, special heights and tasks face us this year. For 1985 is the final year of the 11th 5-Year Plan, the year of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, the year of the 27th party congress.

All the efforts, creative potential, and energy of our country's working people are now directed toward a fitting greeting for these portentous events. Widely developing the socialist competition of the whole people, our glorious working people everywhere, in every labor collective, are revealing and resolutely bringing into national economic circulation internal reserves for raising production efficiency and improving work quality, are outlining and implementing specific measures to ensure the rhythmic and trouble-free working of all sectors, and are eliminating existing shortcomings.

The people of Zugdidi also have something to think about and see to in this regard. Today we are having an election meeting, at which we take counsel with you. Therefore, it will be correct primarily to devote attention to questions of enhancing the role and prestige of soviets, their organs and standing commissions, and every deputy in resolving the tasks facing them, of course, under the leadership of party organizations.

All power in our country belongs to the soviets. Almost 70 years of experience have convincingly proved the vitality of these organs, which are truly of the people. The task now is to coordinate as fully as possible the forms and methods of work and the role and tasks of the soviets with the political, economic, and social structure of developed democratization of the entire system of management and leadership of the developed socialist society.

We have repeatedly said that the further improvement of planning and management and the optimum combination of territorial and sectorial principles is one of the most significant reserves for deepening the intensification of the national economy. It may be stated without exaggeration that really broad prospects have been opened up to the soviets in our republic in recent years for the activation of work in this direction.

We are doing great and useful work to enhance the role of the soviets in the management and regulation of the processes of the socioeconomic development of our cities and rayons and to increase their independence and responsibility. Fulfilling Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's instructions and the party Central Committee's demands for the clearer demarcation of the functions of party and soviet organs, we endeavor primarily to find a management mechanism which will enable soviet organs to maximally concretize and strengthen their functions in developing the economy of a particular region. Precisely this principle was made the basis of the creation of agrarian-industrial associations in the rayons of our republic. And we set the same aims in creating experimental territorial-intersectorial associations in the city of Poti and in Tbilisi's Zavogdskoy Rayon.

Comrade I. Todua has already said in his speech that I met yesterday with the leadership of your agro-industrial association.

During the talks and an exchange of opinions and in a frank discussion of a whole number of urgent problems I was once again convinced that we are on the right road and that with the creation of these associations such a very complex and multifaceted sector as agriculture or, if you like, the entire agro-industrial complex has really gained a competent and authoritative master, since highly skilled people, real professionals, who are capable of resolving complex problems of the sector's leadership to a high standard and with regard to modern requirements under the leadership of the party raykom, have gathered here, in these agro-industrial associations.

All these experimental organs of management have been formed and are functioning directly under gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms. They create all the conditions for soviets to have a specific and direct impact on the work of the enterprises, organizations, and farms located on their territories precisely by means of this mechanism, through the comrades working in these organizations. No less significant is the fact that the assets formed from deductions from economic organizations and used purposefully to develop the region's social infrastructure and to fund other measures have been concentrated in the hands of soviet organs.

As experience shows, it is this approach which ensures that elements of departmental and local self-interest are overcome and state and local interests are combined in the best way. And this, as is well known, is one of the soviets' most important tasks.

The experience of the working people of Poti and Tbilisi's Zavodskoy Rayon is now being introduced widely in the republic's industrial centers. Much has been done in this respect in the capital itself. Interesting work is in progress in Kutaisi, Rustavi, and Batumi, and a very original mechanism has been developed in Sukhumi and other cities. We have been told that proposals worthy of attention have also been submitted by the Zugdidi comrades.

There are many fundamental innovations in the leadership of science and of scientific and technical progress and in the organization of consumer goods production. An interesting experiment is in progress in capital construction, transport, the service sphere, and the sphere of credit and financial relations, the improvement of monetary circulation, and so forth.

It was these bold experiments and innovative quests which provided the grounds for the high assessment which Comrade K.U. Chernenko gave of the republic when he said that experiments are being conducted here on a broad front at various levels of leadership of the economy, science, and culture.

This high assessment of our activity makes it incumbent on every Communist and every citizen of the republic to work still more zealously, selflessly, and energetically to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of state plans, seeking a further growth in the intensification of production.

The main thing now is to accelerate in every way the resolution of questions connected with the introduction of new, experimental forms of planning and management, to put our intentions into practice, and to elaborate an efficient economic machinery comprehensively taking account of local problems and peculiarities and according as fully as possible with current demands. At the same time we have repeatedly said that there must be constant concern for combining these innovations of ours with the large-scale sector experiments which have been launched in the country.

It is necessary to include in the sphere of the creative quest our rural and settlement soviets, whose work is unfortunately still sometimes marked only too clearly by a routine, stereotyped approach, excessive paperwork, and obsolete forms and methods, and where insufficient concern for the introduction of innovations can be sensed.

Yet life itself requires that these soviets participate more practically, effectively, and competently in the resolution of urgent economic and social problems. The soviets, the deputies, and the aktiv must gain a profound mastery of the main economic concepts and associate their activity more closely with current tasks in the development of kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other organizations located on their territory.

In setting the goal of resolving a particular problem it is necessary to take fully into account the nature of the soviets, their functions, and their purpose. Without ever bypassing the soviets, we should entrust to them only those things which evolve from their legislative nature, rights, and duties, those things in which they are best able to fulfill their basic purpose as organs of the people's power.

I would like to draw attention to another important question. In introducing management innovations it is necessary beforehand to properly study how fully and sensibly people are using the levers of management and influence which have recently been so widely granted to those organs of people's power by Soviet legislation. Day-to-day practice confirms that if these levers are used by leaders who think in a statesmanlike way, much success can be achieved and many useful, good deeds done.

A vivid example of this is the activity of the Rukhi rural soviet's own ispolkom and the kolkhoz board. Surely it is a result of skillful work by the soviet's deputies and of their harmonious, proper collaboration with your own Sakartvelo Kolkhoz and its board that today the village of Rukhi is a very beautiful settlement with good amenities and, it may be said, all the benefits of urban comfort. The village has a fine House of Culture, a secondary school with an extended-day group, kindergartens and creches, a telephone exchange with 200 numbers, a hospital, an outpatients' clinic, a pharmacy, 31 trade and public catering facilities, and the Aisi three-story consumer services block. Nearly each family lives in a well appointed house. Every second family has a piano at home, every one has a television set, and more than 150 of the village's inhabitants have cars. As the kolkhoz chairman has already said, the bathhouse and the electric mills provide free service to the population. The food and care of children of extended-day groups, kindergartens, and creches are also free.

Today I visited the school, inspected its offices and laboratories, and met with teachers and pupils, and I must say that it made a good impression on me, because here I found assembled, on the one hand, teachers boundlessly in love with their work, and on the other, young people eager for knowledge. As for the fact that extended-day groups exist at the school, this is evidence of your kolkhoz' strength and its attentiveness toward education. The comrades told me that the kolkhoz allocates R40,000-50,000 a year to the school for two free meals a day for the children. And only an economically strong kolkhoz could do that. Its economic strength is the fruit of your labor. Your own children benefit from these fruits and from the assets that you have created.

All this is a great thing in itself, because for us, parents and grandparents, there is no greater or nobler mission than to create conditions for the education and all-around development of the young generation. To be more precise, this is not only in the realm of our desires. It is our duty as parents.

More than 500 people receive kolkhoz pensions and every year more than 100 kolkhoz members benefit from passes to sanatoriums and leisure homes free or at concessionary prices.

There are many such villages in the republic today, and they should set an example for the others. I want to mention them also because one entirely indisputable truth has become known: Wherever people approach their task with initiative and creativity, where labor discipline and personal and collective responsibility are high and things are going well, people live well. Very useful experience has been accumulated, in our view, by Martkopi Rural Soviet in Gardabanskiy Rayon, which involves local organizations, labor collectives, the population, and a large aktiv widely in the comprehensive resolution of questions of the economic and social development of the village.

This rural soviet actively influences the activity of the enterprises and organizations located on its territory and helps them to fulfill production targets and socialist pledges and make rational use of material and labor resources. In their turn the labor collectives now react more promptly to the decisions and recommendations of the rural soviets, its ispolkoms, and the standing commissions of deputies. Meanwhile the forms and methods of work with the population are improving all the time. Republican ministries and departments participate actively in the implementation of an extensive program for socioeconomic development which was approved at the village assembly.

All this has changed the face of the village and helped to establish a new way of life and new relations among people.

And -- most important -- the rural soviet aktiv and all the population are widely involved in implementing the program for sociocultural development. It was with their direct participation that the 44-meter bridge over the Siratkhevi River was built, a new road some 5 km long was laid, gravel was spread on some 10 km of village roads, 8 km of pipes in the water supply system were replaced, 100,000 fruit trees and decorative plants were planted, and the approach roads, outhouses, and the territory adjacent to the village were spruced up. This year will see the completion of restoration work on a church located on the village territory, where a local history museum will be situated.

I have mentioned the planting of fruit trees, and in this connection I would like to share with you my impression of yesterday: During my visit to the youth park, the youngsters said proudly that they had planted many nut trees. That is important. First, it means that young people correctly understand the party's call, correctly understand the significance of the problem of conserving our environment, our great wealth. And second, it indicates clearly how young people love their motherland and their national wealth, how they are concerned about people, and so forth. It is just the same in Rukhi, Martkopi, and many other cities and rayons.

A great many useful deeds are to the credit of the rural soviets of Iskra in Goriyskiy Rayon, Lykhny in Gudautskiy Rayon, Kelasuri in Sikhumskiy Rayon, Atskuri in Akhaltsikhskiy Rayon, Tamara in Marneulskiy Rayon, Chaisubani in Khelvachaurskiy Rayon, Opeti in Samtredskiy Rayon, Arakva in Akhalkalakskiy Rayon, and many other rural soviets in our republic and their ispolkoms and aktivs.

The spirit of innovation and creativity which is becoming established in the party and state, including our republic, is a very great gain. This atmosphere necessarily tends toward a concrete, analytical, self-critical approach to the assessment of various phenomena and facts and makes it possible to conduct a more principled struggle against all kinds of shortcomings and better overcome "bottlenecks" in work. And there are plenty of these in the republic.

We have drawn attention to all this because it is in this enterprising, creative atmosphere, in close collaboration with enterprises, organizations, the aktiv, and the population, that we see real reserves for further developing and extending social self-management, in which, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko has noted, a decisive role is assigned to the local soviets.

This, of course, is a general political task and one for the state as a whole. Each of us, therefore, in our specific area of work, is obliged to do his utmost to resolve this complex problem and to constantly seek new forms and methods of motivating working people and developing socialist democracy while also strengthening socialist discipline and organization. Each of us must understand that the growth of self-consciousness and conscious discipline is an indispensable condition for the continued democratization of the whole management system of socialist society and that these are two indissolubly linked aspects of a single process. It is especially important to pose the question this way now, when our country is at the stage of improving socialism.

Our potential for expanding work in this sphere is truly inexhaustble since this is our main path to communist self-management. And it is necessary to strive for this noble goal right now and to work persistently and resolutely every day in all spheres of social life. And the main thing is that our soviets, deputies, and the soviet aktiv should be at the center of all this work.

However, if we are being frank we have to say that the desire for the new is not always evident in the work of some of our gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms. The work of many of their structural subdivisions has remained unchanged for years, even decades. The style, forms, and methods of their activity remains as before. Just look at the departments of public education, culture, health care, and so forth in some of our regions. Can we really see anything innovative in their work? Against the background of the new USSR Constitution, for example, or of those changes now taking place in our economic and cultural life and so forth.

The new and ever-increasing problems facing us require as a matter of urgency that obsolete ideas, standards, and models formed over many years be abandoned and that every soviet link and service be comprehensively activated. At the same time it is very important to begin all this long-term work by developing the soviets' self-management and to teach them how to raise and resolve urgent questions by themselves.

Daily concern for developing rural democracy should be one of the most significant elements of our work in this sphere. Are there really so few unused reserves here? We see our first duty in further extending the rights of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and in improving the forms of their management.

Here is an example. Each kolkhoz now has a set of rules governing the rights and duties of the farm as a whole and of each member. The board and its chairman are elected by the general assembly in accordance with those rules. I cannot see why this system should not be extended to sovkhozes, too, for example. After all, we elect VUZ rectors, department heads, party raykom secretaries, ispolkom chairmen, and so forth. On this basis it is surely not unjustified to consider making the post of sovkhoz leader elective, creating a collegial body here, too, electing its chairman or director, and formulating rules appropriate to the existing situation. I do not believe that such an innovation, such a democratization of management, would do any harm. Is it not obvious that kolkhoz members' rights and duties as enshrined in the rules and the elective nature of the farm's leading bodies not only do not undermine the campaign against all violations and negative phenomena, but on the contrary, help to comprehensively activate work in this area and increase the personal responsibility of each kolkhoz member in those areas where the rules are correctly applied ?

I think, therefore, that the introduction of such methods, at least experimentally, would be quite justified under the conditions pertaining to sovkhozes. Herein lies the path to establishing that mechanism which enables us to combine democratic principles with greater discipline and increased responsibility in the best possible way and to turn discipline into an element of the democratic system of management.

We must also give constant thought to ways of developing and introducing effective forms of social self-management in other areas of rural life, too. Take rural education, for example. It goes without saying that many useful things could be done here, too. In brief, the task is to work purposefully so as to achieve a deepening of democracy in all spheres and areas of work and thereby help raise the social activeness of our population, working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and intelligentsia.

We can see the unused reserves clearly, of course, when the question is put like that.

When setting the task of extensive democratization in all spheres of social life, we do and must expect our soviets to comprehensively intensify their role in managing the economy, boosting production efficiency, and strengthening plan, labor, and production discipline in every city, rayon, village, and labor collective. In parallel with this, we of course anticipate that all this must find specific expression in specific end results.

All of you probably recall our previous meeting. What great hopes we pinned, for example, on the china factory. We were hoping that the enterprise's collective would finally reach a turning point in its work and join the ranks of the leaders. Such promises were actually made. Unfortunately, however, this was not to be. Quite the contrary, many technical and economic indicators actually deteriorated in the enterprise in the years after the promises were made.

We cannot and simply do not have the right to tolerate such a state of affairs. We are justified in holding not only the party organ, but also the city soviet, its ispolkom, and its deputies strictly responsible for the situation that has developed. At the same time, I would also like to say (I was convinced of this during my meeting with the collective yesterday) that encouraging developments have already occurred there recently, and that the plant is now approaching its planned capacity. One can sense that the enterprise's workers, specialists, and leaders have great confidence in their own strength. They are receiving more active assistance from ministry representatives and city leaders. This is a good start. Let us express our confidence that the china factory, the only such enterprise in Georgia, whose output is needed by every family, will become a model and an example among enterprises.

Both the city and the rayon are systematically failing to fulfill targets for the commissioning and bringing on stream of a number of major projects. The volume of uncompleted construction is being reduced only slowly, and serious shortcomings have emerged in the city's heat supply. I know that you are giving very keen attention to the question, but it will not be finally resolved until natural gas is brought here. Katuaisi has already received gas. The day is not far off when natural gas will arrive in Zugdidi, and the Sikhumi people will receive it shortly after.

A Georgian Communist Party Central Committee resolution that will help considerably in accelerating this work is currently in preparation. For its part, the city leadership must also pave the way to receive gas.

Great difficulties exist in the supply of drinking water to the population.

This was also a subject for discussion by the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's government. We have outlined ways of resolving this problem in Zugdidi in the shortest possible time. Work to introduce progressive forms of services is poor and there are still instances of cheating and deceiving customers, distorting prices, providing services without receipts, and other negative points.

There are many shortcomings in the work of the rayon's enterprises and organizations. Certain farms in your rayon, which is the home and workplace of the esteemed Tamara Andreyevan Kupuniya -- the initiator of a nationwide campaign to improve the quality of the country's tea -- continue to tolerate violations of schedules laid down by agricultural technology for tea harvesting and of processing techniques, and the density of stands is unjustifiably low. For this reason alone, more than 400 hectares of land annually stands "idle." The plan targets for land reclamation are not being fulfilled, either. Furthermore, instances of low-quality work being carried out are frequent.

The level of many of the most important production efficiency indicators is inadequate. Reclaimed land is still not used rationally everywhere and the yield of agricultural crops and livestock productivity are low on many kolkhozes and sovkhozes, while the prime cost of output is high. All the above convinces us yet again that the time has come for every person to learn to think economically, to calculate, and to know the value of each ruble and kopek.

The progressive form of organizing and paying labor that is the team contract -- which has a great future -- is being introduced too slowly in the countryside. The rayon's economy is based primarily on tea cultivation and the processing of the result. This, of course, is good and as it should be. Nonetheless, it is important that in being concerned for this sector's development, we should not overlook real reserves for increasing the production of other agricultural crops, of corn, for instance, and that we should seek to increase their profitability.

The very idea of raising the question in this way is evidence of the fact that not all farms have yet achieved the proper standard of economic and analytical work. Some cadres are not skilled enough in intensive economic management and economic analysis, do not have the necessary knowledge, and do not know how to think in a new manner. Many workers have still not learned to correlate production expenditures to the real end results or to give profound economic substantiations for economic decisions.

The issue is now posed as follows: We must unfailingly overcome these shortcomings. Otherwise we will not be able to manage complex present-day production skillfully or to ensure a substantial increase in its efficiency. I am not wrong in also saying that the soviets of all levels, their ispolkoms, and every deputy and aktiv are undoubtedly called on to make a fitting contribution to the solution of this important problem. They have the powers and authority to do so.

Of course, an extraordinarily important role in implementing these tasks is assigned to the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers and their relevant departments.

As has already been noted above, Zugdidi is a very promising, intensively developing region. New factories and plants, the enterprises now under construction, and those that will be constructed in the future will, of course, require additional new manpower. And for that, an increase in the population, the creation of new families and new homes are needed. In your city and rayon, the birth rate lags considerably behind the average corresponding indicators for the republic.

That is a serious, very serious, matter. In thinking about the future of our region and all its cities and villages, we proceed from the premise that this future is being built for our children and grandchildren, for future generations. That is why we must regard concern for the people's future and the swelling of their ranks as a truly patriotic duty for every young family.

And one more very important question. I have in mind the enhanced efficiency of the use of manpower -- our chief and truly priceless resource. In Zugdidskiy Rayon, the level of recruitment of the able-bodied population to social production is still unsatisfactory. In Zugdidi City, nearly 3,500 people are employed in housework or on their own private plots, while in Zugdidskiy Rayon, the figure is over 6,000. Who better than the soviets to consider the rational use of this potential? Who better than the soviets to specifically resolve this question of great state importance?

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's government believe that the main national economic tasks of the program planned for the next few years and the longer term should be ensuring that we reach leading positions on the scale of the entire country for the most important indicators of economic and cultural development and, on this basis, increasing the republic's contribution to the wealth of all the state on the one hand and substantially improving the population's living standard on the other.

For this it is essential to continue to rapidly build up the republic's industrial potential, to improve the sectorial structure of the national economy, to enhance social production efficiency, to step up its intensification, to do everything to introduce the latest achievements of scientific and technical progress into all sectors of the economy, and to improve the use of manpower and natural resources.

In brief, all our efforts, all our endeavors, must be directed toward accelerating by every means the creation of a material and technical basis consistent with the lofty requirements of developed socialism, thereby securing a qualitatively new level of prosperity for the Soviet people.

Now that we are shaping the essence of our long-term program and its goals and main guidelines, it would probably do no harm to consult among ourselves regarding the specific tasks that we will undoubtedly have to resolve during its implementation.

In this connection, allow me to focus your attention in general outline on just a few salients.

First -- and this is the main point -- we must lay the foundation for a qualitatively new stage in the republic's economic development that will be characterized by profound changes in the development of production forces, a powerful production and scientific and technical potential, the optimum sectorial structure, and a high level of social production efficiency.

Second, for the most important indicators of the industrialization of the republic's economy, we must unfailingly reach the average all-union level and surpass it. And for that it is necessary to develop at preferential rates the industries that determine socioeconomic and scientific and technical progress or which ensure the optimum combination of the social and scientific and technical revolutions. This is designed to ensure the creation of a reliable energy base and large machine building and chemical industry complexes and the enhancement of the comprehensive development of the republic's national economy on the basis of the use of the potential for boosting other sectors of the national economy.

Third, on the basis of the broader and more effective use of the republic's natural and soil and climatic conditions, it is essential to persistently and consistently develop all kinds of the agro-industrial complex and thereby seek the successful implementation of the USSR food program and the maximum expansion of the production of agricultural output envisaged by all-union specialization and local consumption needs.

Fourth, to satisfy the constantly increasing needs of the national economy and the population, we must widely develop all types of transport, strengthen and qualitatively update the sectors of the socioconsumer infrastructure, ensure the greater or lesser equalization of the economic and cultural development levels of individual regions and an economic boost for the republic's southern, mountainous, and foothill regions, restrict the further concentration of production and the population in big cities and, in population centers with surplus manpower resources, continue to expand the network of branches and production facilities of major industrial enterprises and associations.

And, fifth and last, the solution of these complex and multifaceted tasks should ensure that we achieve our main goal -- a qualitatively new standard of material and cultural welfare for the people; a substantial increase in real incomes and consumption, an improvement in working and living conditions, substantial progress in the field of health, education, culture, and the sanitation of the environment -- in brief, that we create all the necessary material prerequisites for the best harmonious development of the individual.

Those, in general outline, are the tasks that face us on the threshold of the new, 21st century. Of course, these frontiers, these tasks, both general and specific, will be frequently revised and considered in the republic's leading organs. Nonetheless, the main thing is to actively enlist every city, rayon, settlement, village, and labor collective in the republic to their nationwide discussion.

All this sets extraordinary important and crucial tasks before the soviets of peoples deputies of all levels, before the deputies and aktivs who, under our Constitution, are called upon to resolve, and indeed, do resolve many major questions of the economic and social development of the region or population center under their jurisdiction. We expect committed, businesslike, competent participation in the drafting of the 12th 5-Year Plan and the program for the longer period by the soviets of peoples deputies and, through them, by every worker and each one of you.

In our country, the soviets embody state power. Above all else, this means affirming everywhere the Soviet way of life, socialist legality, and law and order.

Many positive developments can be noticed in this direction in your region, including developments in the sphere of education, the sphere of molding our young people's world outlook and awareness, and the sphere of patriotic and international education. Kolkhoz Chairman Comrade Z. Todua spoke very graphically and eloquently of how Rukhi has become the mecca of friendship between Georgians and Abkhazians. All this constitutes our riches and our strength. The more such meccas of brotherhood and friendship between Georgians and Russians, Abkhazians, Osetians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Ukrainians, Jews, and many other peoples we have, the stronger our country will be and the stronger all of us will be. However, it would be incorrect to rest satisfied with what has been achieved. Life always demands more from us and sets new tasks all the time. Even the slightest defect in the soviets' work will never pass unnoticed by the working people, at whose will they are created.

Unfortunately, both in Zugdidi City and in the rayon, we can observe far from isolated instances of deviation from the norms of socialist communal living, the operational conditions are unsatisfactory, there is a growing number of certain types of crimes, the struggle waged against embezzlement of state property and bribery is inadequate, we still have not managed to extirpate harmful rituals and customs, and there are frequent large weddings and wakes that often take on distorted form. They involve hundreds of people being taken away from their work, the waste of enormous quantities of produce, and the collection of large sums of money to supposedly help the deceased's family, which places a heavy burden on the families of honest working men. Of course, we are not against anyone organizing a wedding. Quite the contrary, we are pleased with them, because the more weddings there are, the more happiness there is on earth, the more new families there are, and the stronger the motherland grows. And when a person suffers misfortune, he must not be left alone in his grief. Of course he must sense the sympathy of his relative, friend, and neighbor.... But there is a measure and a limit to everything. And the misfortune is contained in the fact that precisely due to an inability to stay within this measure and limits, at times a humanitarian, necessary, and sound tradition turns into a source of unhappiness, tragedy, and calamity for many families.

All this often takes place in full view of the soviets and of their ispolkoms, deputies, and numerous aktiv members, and at times even with their participation. Such a passive, conciliatory, and unprincipled attitude by no means builds up the prestige of any organ or predisposes honest working people favorably toward it.

We have repeatedly said, and are forced to say again now, that the proper state and social order has yet to be imposed in this matter. The public in the city and the rayon is still not widely involved in the struggle against negative phenomena. At times, this struggle is waged unsystematically and is not marked by the proper political acuteness and scope.

Each worker in soviet organs, especially every leading worker, is not only called upon, but obliged to wage an implacable struggle against everything that is negative and outdated and to set an example of honesty and devotion to the common cause and to be a true servant of the people.

Under these circumstances, we are all the more grieved by the serious violations that have occurred in the Zugdidi Gorispolkom. We support the assertive and militant stance taken by the party gorkom, or rather, by its leadership. This stance again confirms that an active, uncompromising, and constant struggle is and will continue to be waged in the republic against all types of violations and negative phenomena, against everything that is contrary to our socialist way of life and morals. Each city and rayon and every party organization must continue to intensify the struggle in this direction and become more principled and exacting.

Unfortunately, despite the measures that have recently been taken and the results that have been achieved, quite a few unresolved problems still remain in the work to strengthen socialist law and order and discipline, and this generates justified alarm among the people. This was shown by the large number of letters I received on this subject yesterday in the course of the so-called "Open Letter Day." Similar letters are also received by party and soviet organs and the party Central Committee. This testifies to the fact that honest people -- the vast majority of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and intelligentsia -- demand the hardening and stepping up of the struggle against negative phenomena. The people demand order, and we -- primarily the Communists, leading workers, and deputies -- are obliged to impose such order for our people's sake and ensure the real triumph of honesty and justice.

The paramount duty must be to step up the struggle against encroachments on socialist property, embezzlement of people's assets, speculation, and bribery.

The working people are also justified in demanding a more active struggle against drug addiction, this terrible evil. The measures taken against idlers who lead the life of parasites are not always effective. More attention must be given to preventing drunkenness, hooliganism, theft, and crimes committed as the result of everyday life conflicts.

The proper order must be imposed in the work of motor vehicle transport so that hundreds of people no longer die or become invalids on the republic's roads and streets.

As regards Zugdidi, here it is particularly important to involve the entire public of the city and rayon, party, soviet, and administrative organs and the large aktiv more actively and boldly in the struggle against negative phenomena, against everything that obstructs us in imposing an exemplary order. The final word in this work belongs to Zugdidi's party gorkom and raykoms, which must introduce a well organized system of joint struggle against negative phenomena and harmful rituals and customs. Joint meetings of the party and economic aktiv, joint sessions of the city and rayon soviets, joint visiting reception sessions in the city's housing districts and in rural rayons, joint "Open Letter Days," unified political days, and meetings between deputies and voters -- this not a complete list of the interesting forms of joint work that must be used creatively and improved constantly if we really want to achieve high results in the interesting movement launched in Zugdidi City and Zugdidskiy Rayon to improve all aspects of life, impose exemplary law and order, and achieve a further upswing in the economy and culture.

The time has come when we must show interest in everyone's fate, not just in words, but in actual deeds; interest in everyone's way of life and in everything that each one of us is doing for the benefit of society, for raising his family's prestige, and for his own improvement. Now we have a realistic basis for such work and the relevant experience, extremely rich, substantial experience.

A decisive role in this work belongs to primary party organizations and Communists. Today, the state of affairs in labor collectives largely depends on the personal example of the Communists. This is why party concern for people must be sensibly combined with strict exactingness and principledness. It is under this very flag that the republican party organizations are now hearing the Communists' reports and approving their party testimonials. This is a wonderful practice. It is just one of the attempts to transfer the discussion on a Communist's responsibility from the sphere of general deliberations to a footing of absolute specificity. We wish every Communist to tell his party comrades with total communist sincerity and frankness about his labor and social activeness and his attitude toward the work entrusted to him and the various instructions that have been given. We wish everyone to report on how his children are doing with their studies, what their interests and inclinations are, and so on.

This is the process that is underway in our party organization, and it is desirable that this widespread movement, which must under no circumstances become just a temporary campaign, should acquire a totally specific and objective nature.

Today, over 13,000 members of the CPSU have already been through this partywide check.

Needless to say, it is still too early to draw final conclusions, but one thing can already be said: These reports and character references, the public and principled discussion of Communists' labor activeness and lives by their working comrades at party meetings, and discussions of their professional and moral qualities and the style and methods of work have enhanced the combat capability and prestige of party organizations, improved their ranks, and promoted the exposure and correction of shortcomings and failings in work and the extensive development of intraparty democracy.

During the party reports, many Communists -- as expected -- were praised and thanked for their good work, but many others were severely punished. Some 26 of these were expelled from the party, expelled on the initiative of the primary party organizations themselves and at the will of their labor collectives and party comrades. They are the ballast that was weighing down party organizations.

You are well aware that the party has always been concerned about the purity of its ranks. However, the struggle for the purity of party ranks must not only be a general slogan and phrase. It means entirely specific work with every Communist.

The struggle for the purity of party ranks using the method that we are now asserting is based on our achievements in socialist creation and our experience in the sphere of party building. We think that this experience is interesting and the work begun in this direction must be seen through to the end.

The growth of party exactingness and adherence to principle has been seen particularly clearly during the current election campaign. In nominating Communists and nonparty people as candidate deputies, we have been guided first and foremost by the need to ensure that the best members of our society, production frontrankers, and worthy leaders are represented in the republic's parliament. At the same time, it is necessary to note the considerable growth in the proportion of the working class and the kolkhoz peasantry. That is why certain of our leaders -- including ministers, chairmen of state committees, and certain party gorkom and raykom first secretaries -- were not among the candidate deputies, although they undoubtedly merited this high honor in terms of their professional and moral qualities.

However, there are also cases of another kind where the voters refrained from nominating certain leading workers as candidate deputies because of the errors, serious oversights, and failings committed by them. You are already aware of this from press reports. Therefore, I will not draw your attention to these cases here. I will just say that 3 deputies were recalled from the previous composition of the republic's supreme soviet and 29 from local soviets. In our opinion, this is extremely noteworthy and instructive.

I think that this approach is entirely justified. This line is a correct and principled one and we will continue to adhere to it.

It is now more than a month since the republic's working people optimistically embarked on resolving the great and complex tasks of the final year of the 5-year plan. Despite existing difficulties, industrial workers have successfully coped with the targets for January and are satisfactorily conducting livestock wintering, although this question continues to require great attention -- all the more so in this winter's conditions. Equipment is being persistently prepared for spring sowing work everywhere and the working people of other sectors of the republic's economy have also begun the new year in an organized way.

Now the task is not only to maintain, but to accelerate the pace that has been set still further, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed: Work better today than yesterday, and better tomorrow than today. The 5-year plan must be fulfilled at all costs. There is no other way. To that end, every party, soviet, and economic organ, every trade union and Komsomol organization, every ministry and department, and every labor collective must clearly define its role and place in the struggle for the unconditional fulfillment of the 5-year plan targets and bring to light and actively utilize all existing reserves in order to ensure shock work and efficient organization of production and labor this year.

In conclusion, I would once again like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for the great trust you have shown me in nominating me as candidate deputy to the republic's supreme soviet and to thank you sincerely for the words addressed to me personally and to the republic's leadership, and for the great warmth which I always sense during meetings with the voters of Rukhskiy Electoral Okrug and the working people of Zugdidi City and Zugdidskiy Rayon. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your energetic and selfless labor and the high economic indicators, which are the pride of Zugdidskiy Rayon and Zugdidi City and the pride of the entire republic.

I wish each of you happiness, health, great joy, the fulfillment of all tasks, and the achievement of all your goals.

To conclude my speech, I would like to assure you that I will continue to spare no efforts and energy in the service of the party and the people and for the prosperity of our socialist motherland.

PRAVDA ON NEED TO IMPROVE CADRE PROMOTION

PM221623 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 85 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Skillfully Nurturing Leaders"]

[Text] It is well known that leaders are not born. But how does someone become a plant director, kolkhoz chairman, or secretary of a party raykom or obkom? Naturally, we need certain data to decide that. And we must spot the people early in order to promote them and help them grow as organizers and educators. This is one of the constant and chief tasks of party committees.

Let us trace the career of a leader who enjoys great and deserved respect. E. Vasilchishin, first secretary of Zaporozhye City's Zavodskiy Party Raykom, began as a worker. He took an active part in his collective's social life. He was elected a member of the party gorkom bureau and deputy to the Ukraine SSR Supreme Soviet. Upon graduating from the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, he worked as party committee secretary at the Dneprospetsstal Plant. In short, he underwent varied professional, ideological, and moral tempering. Many other leading party workers have followed a similar route.

"Cadres," Comrade K.U. Chernenko has observed, "are indeed the gold fund of the party and state, and it must be constantly renewed with an intake of fresh blood...An efficient and well conceived system is more important than ever when working with cadres. Neither frequent replacements nor any kind of stagnation of cadre personnel is permissible here."

The party keeps these questions at the focus of its attention. It can be said that we have created a powerful cadre potential, thanks to great and consistent educational work based on Leninist principles of cadre selection. But life does not stand still. We must now raise the development of production forces, production relations, and the people's prosperity to a new qualitative level. The newness and complexity of these tasks and the higher level of education and culture of our people place increased demands on cadres, which must be taken into account in work with them.

As far as forming cadres is concerned, much depends on the promotion pool. The pool is the reserve of people who are being trained to shoulder the difficult and complex burden of leadership work. Good results are evident wherever constant care is paid to this. Those in the pool are required to take part in party committee discussions. Regular seminars are held and skill-improvement courses are organized for them.

Future leaders attend training courses in the best collectives. This all provides the opportunity, where need be, to supplement particular areas with cadres from one's own pool.

But it has to be said that things are not like this everywhere. Tajikistan's Yavanskiy Rayon has 422 leaders, but there are only 30 people in its promotion pool. This can scarcely be considered adequate. And there are worse examples. On paper everything reads fine, but the list bears no real meaning. What is the consequence? Haphazard, ill-considered promotions give rise to serious mistakes, which then have to be hurriedly rectified, and that is itself likely to produce new mistakes. A clearly paradoxical situation prevails in some places: There are many people available, but it seems, no leaders are chosen from among them. Some posts remain vacant for years. Promotion, if it is to fully serve the interests of the cause, requires that people are thoroughly vetted in advance and receive long-term training. This must be a golden rule for every party organization.

The party is guided by the need to promote a larger number of able young men, women, and representatives of our various nations and ethnic groups. We must wage an even more resolute struggle against every kind of nepotism, whereby selection is based on personal loyalty or local or family ties. The dissemination of democratic principles in work with cadres and the development of publicity will help to forestall this. Whenever expedient, we must apply more extensively the principle of electing leading workers and a competitive system of filling posts, ensuring that references are provided.

It is clear that work with cadres is neither limited to nor ends with promotion. A leader, especially in the early stages, needs careful assistance, support, and exacting supervision. This is well served by reports by leading cadres to party committees, the analysis of work at plenums and bureau sessions, and individual discussion. If someone encounters difficulties, he needs to be advised and promoted on how best to overcome them. If he, so to speak, becomes apathetic and merely marks time, he must be helped to pull himself together. If, however, he abuses his official position and contravenes our laws and moral code, he must be made fully accountable to the party.

The primary party organizations must play a much greater role in educating leaders. The grass-roots levels of the party possess the right to monitor the administration's activity and the apparatus' work. And this right must be fully exercised. Communists must not overlook negative features in the work or behavior of leaders and must give a principled evaluation of them. However, until recently the examination of questions about leaders' responsibility by the party gorkoms and raykoms themselves was widespread. The Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee plenum pointed out that half of those brought before the party last year in Komratskiy, Oknitskiy, Sorokskiy, and Sholdaneshtskiy Rayons were punished without the primary parties' being involved. This situation must be resolutely rectified.

There is another question too which Communists legitimately raise. The practice, long condemned by the party, of shifting unsuccessful, compromised workers from one leading post to another has still not been universally eradicated. It is essential that this be ended once and for all and that the rule be adopted not to promote a discredited person to leadership until he has shown in his work at a lower level that he may again be entrusted with serious work.

We are in the final year of the 5-year plan, the elections to union and autonomous republic supreme soviets and local soviets are approaching, and preparations for the 40th anniversary of victory and the 27th CPSU Congress are increasingly wide-ranging. Our party and the people are living at a pitch of intense, creative activity. In-depth analysis of the experience accumulated in work with cadres and its further improvement will help to successfully resolve our current socioeconomic tasks.

CENTRAL ECONOMIC PLANNING SYSTEM DEFENDED

PM221457 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 Feb 85 First Edition p 3

[Article by V. Trushkov under the rubric "Lessons of History: Events and Documents": "Myths of an Old Chestnut"]

[Text] Commenting on last year's economic results, Western press organs were forced to admit: "In accordance with the data published by the USSR Central Statistical Administration, there was a considerable increase in industrial output in 1984. Compared with the previous year, the Soviet economy achieved pretty good results in the labor productivity sphere."

January was difficult because of the severe winter. This was bound to affect production results. And, on cue, bourgeois propaganda is doing its utmost to assure all and sundry of socialism's so-called bankruptcy. To that end it is rerunning critical items that have appeared in our press and the myth about the "catastrophic state of the Soviet economy."

But the talk about our difficulties and shortcomings is merely a screen which thinly disguises hatred of socialism. The bourgeoisie continues to be particularly hostile toward the social character of our production. Its ideologists insist that "history has demonstrated more than once the bankruptcy of Marxist economic policy. Economic planning is organized throughout the Soviet bloc and this..." There follows a list of existing difficulties and nonexistent problems.

...It was 55 years ago. When the first 5-year plan was adopted in the USSR, the U.S. magazine BUSINESS WEEK wrote of its creators: "With samovar on the boil and slide-rule in hand, the peasant mathematicians have painted an amazing picture of the miracles that are to take place in the Soviet republic." But they would not take place, the West was sure.

The West's current admissions reflect the USSR's successes in the 11th 5-Year Plan. It has an important feature: For the first time, the party has elaborated a long-term plan for the country's economic and social development. Certainly, the previous national economic plans also included targets in the social sphere, but when checking today on the heights we have reached, it is necessary to bear in mind that the 26th CPSU Congress pointed out that in the eighties the task is not only to steadily improve the people's material and cultural living standard, but also to create better conditions for the comprehensive development of the individual.

How far capitalist ideologists are from the truth when they claim that Soviet plans are indifferent to the social life of society and to peoples! The British sociologist R. Hutchings said literally the following: "The Soviet Union continues to be far less bothered about social problems than the United States."

Each figure in the USSR Central Statistical Administration report is interesting primarily for its social significance. That is why we gain equal satisfaction from labor productivity growth and the improvement of workers' and employees' pay, the better utilization of material, labor, and financial resources, and the introduction of higher norms for the feeding of children in preschool establishments...

As far as we are concerned the social aspects do not in any way boil down to individual consumption (although the country is constantly concerned about increasing it). Therefore, Soviet people are satisfied that recently, in industry, the production of progressive types of equipment, ensuring production automation and the improvement of the technical standard of products, has been growing at a comparatively high rate.

So much for bourgeois theorists' claims that it is impossible to plan scientific and technical progress. The West German economist (I. Repke) insists: "Centralized planning of innovations is as impossible as squaring the circle...Unlike the market system, a centrally managed system is characterized by a high degree of hostility toward innovation. At a certain stage of its development it becomes hostile toward evolution. This hostility toward innovation and evolution is so obvious that no further comment is necessary."

But we will comment! As a result of the planning of scientific and technical progress, a very important social task is being successfully solved in our country -- the reduction of manual labor. In 1984 more than 11,000 mechanized flow and automated lines were established at industrial interprises, over 5,000 sections, shops, and production units were switched to comprehensive mechanization and automation, and around 600 automated systems were set up to control production processes.

Note that labor conditions are improved not only by introducing the latest scientific and technical achievements. The efforts of the many rationalizers also serve this purpose. Last year the country utilized around 4 million rationalizers' proposals. This is understandable: As a significant social phenomenon of Soviet reality, mass rationalization work is intended primarily to solve the social problems of labor and production. The rational approach to work means behaving judiciously and prudently.

Radio stations go on ad nauseam about the Soviet Union being substantially behind the United States in the electronics sphere. They threaten that unless we are able to buy new equipment and technology from the leading capitalist countries we...will end up in the position of the underdeveloped African countries (and trade sanctions, on Reagan's insistence, are constantly being tightened). We do not deny that we are lagging behind in that sphere, but we will catch up as we have caught up before on more than one occasion. The people who drew up the first Soviet 5-year plan admitted that, for example, in the automotive and chemical sectors we had to start from scratch. Today many capitalist firms buy from us the products of these sectors. Nor have we forgotten the U.S. sanctions on large-diameter pipes for the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod export gas pipeline. Yet, the gas pipelines was still constructed one year ahead of schedule.

No, we will not accept the advice of all the seers and oracles who assure us that "the communist countries can make changes for the better only if they allow free competition." The results of the antepenultimate year of the 5-year plan are graphic evidence of the confident progress of our country where the economic and the social are closely interwoven and the one governs the other.

BRIEFS

UZBEKISTAN SOLAR POWER STATION -- The first large Soviet solar power station of 300,000 kw is being designed in Uzbekistan. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1850 GMT 9 Feb 85 LD]

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS ARMED FORCES JUBILEE

PM221323 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 85 Second Edition pp 1, 3

["Our correspondent" report: "Ceremonial Meeting in Moscow"]

[Text] The Soviet Army Central Academy Theater was decked with flags and banners. On the evening of 21 February, representatives of Moscow's working people, servicemen of the capital's garrison, and Armed Forces veterans came there to celebrate the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The presidium of the ceremonial meeting was comprised of G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.M. Chebrikov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR KGB; I.F. Dmitriyev and N.I. Savinkin, chiefs of CPSU Central Committee Departments; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.I. Petrov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; the following USSR deputy defense ministers: Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko, Army General Ye. F. Ivanovskiy, Chief Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov, Army General V.L. Govorov, Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, Army General V.M. Shabanov, Marshal of Engineering Troops N.F. Shestopalov, Army General A.T. Altunin, and Army General I.N. Shkadov; Admiral of the Fleet A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and also marshals of categories of troops, generals, admirals. and officers; leaders of a number of ministries and departments; representatives of party, Soviet, and public organizations; designers of combat equipment and arms; and USSR pilot-cosmonauts.

The ceremonial meeting was opened by L.I. Matveyev, secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

To the accompaniment of the tumultuous applause of those present, an honary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was elected.

The Soviet servicemen were warmly congratulated on their holiday by V.A. Katkov, leader of a team of molders at the "Stankolit" Plant, and A.V. Zhuganov, secretary of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee.

Army General V.K. Govorov, USSR deputy defense minister, addressed the meeting. The celebration of the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, he said, has coincided with an important sociopolitical event -- the elections to the supreme soviets of the union and autonomous republics and to local soviets. The fact that the celebration of this anniversary is taking place in a year which is, as Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed, in many respects unusual, attaches a special thrust to it.

It is the year of active preparation for the 27th CPSU Congress and the year of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Soviet servicemen, fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, are presistently mastering formidable weapons and modern combat hardware, vigilantly protecting our fatherland's sacred borders, and religiously preserving and augmenting the glorious combat traditions of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The Armed Forces' servicemen, expressing their filial gratitude to their own Communist Party for their utmost concern and attention, assure the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government that they will continue -- in close combat cooperation with the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries -- to vigilantly guard peace and the peoples' security and reliably defend the historic gains of socialism.

The meeting's participants adopted a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

A festive concert was held following the ceremonial part of the meeting.

SOKOLOV COMMEMORATES ARMY, NAVY ANNIVERSARY

PM221448 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 85 First Edition p 2

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union and USSR Defense Minister S. Sokolov: "Loyal to Traditions"]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow the Soviet people, the USSR Armed Forces, and the working people and servicemen of the socialist community states celebrate the 67th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. This holiday is taking place in an atmosphere of great nationwide political and labor enthusiasm and of the socialist competition launched throughout our country for a fitting greeting to the 40th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War and the forthcoming 27th CPSU Congress and for the successful completion of the targets of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

In resolving the tasks of improving the society of developed socialism and further advancing along the path of socioeconomic progress, Soviet people look to the future with optimism. They unanimously approve and support the Leninist domestic and foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet state which wholly accords with the fundamental interests of the working people and all peoples of our great motherland.

Soviet Army and Navy Day is being celebrated on the eve of the elections to the union and autonomous republic supreme soviets and local soviets of people's deputies. In voting for the candidate of the unbreakable bloc of communists and nonparty people, the Armed Forces servicemen, like the entire Soviet people, are demonstrating monolithic unity and close cohesion around the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Soviet Army and Navy have traveled a great and glorious path of struggle and victories. Created by V.I. Lenin and the Communist Party for the defense of the Soviet people's revolutionary gains and peaceful, creative labor, they have proved by their legendary combat deeds their boundless devotion to the socialist motherland and their constant readiness to reliably safeguard its security and the security of its allies and friends.

As an army of the new socialist type, the flesh and blood of their people, the Soviet Armed Forces embody all the people's best features. Their combat traditions are formed on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the revolutionary traditions of the proleteriat and the Communist Party, and the Soviet people's heroic achievements.

The Soviet Armed Forces' traditions were formed in the struggle for the victory of October and in the years of foreign intervention and civil war. Even then the army of the young republic of soviets displayed selfless loyalty to the cause of the Communist Party and the ideals of communism and love for the socialist fatherland. Selflessly fighting the enemies, the Soviet servicemen displayed staunchness, courage, valor, and mass heroism. These and other fine features have entered the Soviet Armed Forces' spiritual arsenal forever.

The combat traditions of the Soviet Army and Navy underwent a stern test and were developed and augmented during the Great Patriotic War. This war was a confrontation of historically unprecedented dimensions and ferocity between the world's first socialist state and the most reactionary shock detachment of imperialism, Hitler's Germany. The Soviet people and their Armed Forces under the leadership of the Communist Party upheld the motherland's freedom and independence, defended the cause of October, and inflicted a crushing defeat on the enemy. They made a decisive contribution to the victory over Nazi Germany and its allies, to the European peoples' liberation from fascist slavery, and to the salvation of world civilization. They also honorably fulfilled their patriotic and international duty. That is their very great service to mankind.

The combat glory of the Soviet Army, which defeated the hated invaders in the very fierce battles at Moscow and Stalingrad, at the Kursk Bulge and on the Dnepr, in the Belorussian, Yassy-Kishinev, Vistula and Oder, Berlin, and other operations will live on down the centuries. Soviet people went into battle with a firm belief in the rightness of their great goal, displaying exceptional fearlessness, bravery, and martial skill.

For Soviet servicemen, the exploit for the motherland was normal conduct. Millions of the fatherland's sons and daughters were awarded orders and medals for the courage and valor they displayed in the struggle against the enemy. Over 11,000 combat orders went to sparkle on the banners of units and formations.

The Leninist Communist Party was the inspirer and organizer of our great victory. By its multifaceted activity, the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On the 40th Anniversary of the Soviet People's Victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War" notes, the party ensured the firm unity of political, state, and military leadership and of the army and the people and the front and rear services.

Heading the Soviet people's titanic struggle, the Communist Party truly became a fighting party. The Armed Forces matured and strengthened under its tested leadership. The Communists were in the front ranks where it was most dangerous and difficult, where the outcome of the fighting was being decided. By their personal example and impassioned words on behalf of the party they inspired the Soviet servicemen and led them to victory.

The motherland pays a tribute of deep respect to those who bore on their shoulders the enormous burdens of the war and who accomplished a great exploit -- the front-line servicemen, partisans and underground fighters, the workers in the rear services, workers, kolkhoz members, and people's intellegentsia -- to all those who worked selflessly at lathes and in the fields, in mines and laboratories. The heroes' immortal deeds will remain forever a graphic example to the present and future generations of Soviet people.

The revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions forged in the struggle for Soviet power and for the building of socialism in the fighting against our motherland's enemies are a powerful means for the ideological and military-patriotic education of the peoples, youth, and Army and Navy servicemen. The Communist Party is dedicated to asserting in Soviet people's consciousness the ideas of patriotism and internationalism and the desire to strengthen the Soviet state's economic and defense might by every means. Educated by the party in a spirit of boundless love for the motherland, Soviet servicemen are proud of the great achievements of previous generations of builders and defenders of the socialist fatherland. Taking them as an example, they are using their strenuous martial labor to enhance the combat skill and combat readiness of the units and ships.

The entire life and activities of the Army and Navy and their arming, the selection, instruction, and education of cadres, the improvement of forms and methods of operational, combat and political training and party-political work, and the further development of military science and art are under the unremitting leadership of the CPSU Central Committee and Central Committee Politburo.

Responding to the concern of the Communist Party, Soviet Government, and people, the Armed Forces personnel are persistently improving their combat skill. In the harsh Arctic and the torrid south, in the foothills of the Carpathians and on our far eastern borders -- throughout the boundless expanses of the motherland and on the seas and oceans the Soviet land's armed defenders are serving vigilantly.

The servicemen are greeting Soviet Army and Navy Day with new successes in combat and political training. Strenuous combat training is under way among the troops and fleets. During daily exercises and drill, long-distance flights and sea and ocean voyages and combat duty, field, air, and naval skill is improved, and the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces is strengthened.

The scope of socialist competition is expanding. This year it is taking place in the Army and Navy under the slogan "Our selfless martial labor for the 40th anniversary of the great victory and the 27th CPSU Congress!" The number of servicemen with excellent ratings, class specialists, and masters of the martial professions is increasing. The task is to vie with the competition leaders and to ensure the personal example of every Communist and Komsomol member in training and service and the high degree of responsibility of every soldier, sergeant, and officer for combat readiness.

The party organizations are the cementing force of the Army and Navy. They work tirelessly to successfully fulfill the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and the tasks set the Armed Forces in raising their combat readiness.

The Komsomol organizations are the Communists' reliable assistants. Komsomol members make up the overwhelming majority of Armed Forces personnel. For the Army and Navy Komsomol there is no more crucial commitment or task than mobilizing the efforts, energy, and will of young people to the skillful mastering of military matters and exemplary fulfillment of their military duty.

In organizing political-educational work, the commanders political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations mobilize the servicemen to the attainment of new heights in combat improvement and the consolidation of martial discipline and law and order. They educate the personnel in the immortal ideas of Marxism-Leninism and in the spirit of unswerving communist conviction, Soviet patriotism, friendship of the USSR peoples, socialist internationalism, and strong military camaraderie.

Our Army's combat traditions are used actively in educational work with servicemen. The present generation of Army and Navy youth is worthily carrying on the tradition of its fathers, sacredly fulfilling the requirements of the military oath, and treasuring the honor and combat glory of the Armed Forces and their own unity and the honor of their military rank.

Loyalty to traditions is formed by the whole tenor of Army and Navy life, by exemplary internal order and the precision-organized troop and ship service. This is promoted to a considerable degree by the unconditional observance of military rituals: The taking of the military oath, carrying the unit combat banner, hoisting the ship flag, and so forth. All this has great emotional impact on people, their feelings, and awareness. Servicemen who experience spiritual exaltation have a keener sense of their personal involvement in the heroic deeds of their fellow servicemen, and seek, by their military labor and combat skill, to augment their glorious achievements.

Meetings with Great Patirotic War veterans are a tested means of educating the personnel in the spirit of the Armed Forces' combat traditions. Veterans enjoy tremendous respect and love. Today's defenders of the motherland see in them an example of loyal service to the fatherland, a model of the fulfillment of military, patriotic, and international duty. Well organized meetings with front veterans leave an indelible trace in young hearts. Through the example of the heroes of the great battles for the socialist fatherland's freedom and independence, young people learn boundless devotion to the cause of the party, love for the motherland, and class hatred of the enemies.

Servicemen's education in combat traditions is being assisted by the preparation, widely launched in the country, for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victorious conclusion of the Great Patriotic War, and by the explanation of the world historical importance of the great victory, the decisive contribution of the Soviet Union to the defeat of the fascist Germany and militarist Japan, of the Soviet Armed Forces' liberation mission, and of the leading role of the CPSU -- the organizer and inspirer of the Soviet people's victory.

DOSAAF plays an important part in the young people's heroic-patriotic education and in training worthy defenders of the fatherland. It gives future servicemen initial military knowledge, instills in them a love for the military profession, profound respect for military labor, and strengthens their sense of loyalty to the Army and Navy combat traditions.

Pride in the heroic achievements of the Armed Forces and their valiant combat past lives in the heart of each man serving under combat banners. The servicemen seek to be the loyal heirs to the combat glory of older generations and by their martial labor and examplary fulfillment of their military duty to augment and develop combat traditions, and be constantly ready, at the party's first call, to defend the Soviet motherland courageously, skillfully, with dignity and honor, not sparing their blood or their very lives.

The Soviet people may be sure that their socialist gains, peaceful constructive labor, and the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity are reliably defended and that our heroic Army and Navy, alongside the fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact countries, are ready to deal a crushing rebuff to any aggression, wherever it may come from.